

**NOMINATIONS OF THE 113TH
CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

—
MAY 7 THROUGH DECEMBER 17, 2013
—

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

S. HRG. 113-319

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

98-305 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2014

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
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NOMINATIONS OF PHILIP GOLDBERG, ROBERT BLAKE, KAREN STANTON, AND AMY HYATT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

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

Hon. Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines
Hon. Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia
Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Amy Jane Hyatt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Palau

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:33 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin, presiding.

Present: Senators Cardin, Rubio, and McCain.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND**

Senator CARDIN. Well, good afternoon, everyone.

I want to thank Senator Menendez for allowing me to chair today's hearing as we consider four nominees for ambassadorships in the Philippines, in the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Timor-Leste, and the Republic of Palau.

Before I give my opening statement, I am going to recognize and acknowledge my colleague from Rhode Island. I would not normally do this. Since he is going to be introducing a Marylander, I would normally take the prerogative to introduce a Marylander, particularly one that has such a wonderful family that is here today. But Senator Whitehouse is a dear friend. He is, of course, a distinguished Member of the United States Senate, comes from a family of diplomats, and has been a great addition to the United States Senate. We came at the same time. So I am going to yield first to Senator Whitehouse for the purposes of an introduction.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND**

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Chairman Cardin. And I am very grateful to you for yielding to me on a constituent from Maryland. I know that I would not ordinarily ask or expect you to do that except for the fact that there is a closer connection involved here. I have the great pleasure and honor of introducing Ambassador Bob Blake who is a member of the panel. He is the son and grandson of Foreign Service officers and embodies a tradition of public service. His father, Ambassador Blake, I see in the audience as well, and his grandfather was Ambassador Whitehouse and was my grandfather too. So there is the connection.

Bob graduated from Harvard as an undergraduate and from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He has a very distinguished career in the Foreign Service. He is serving now as the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, an area with no shortage of problems and concerns. Before then, he was our Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, again during a time of considerable activity. Before that, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission in India, and during a considerable period of that service, he was the acting Ambassador. And as you know, India is one of our largest and most significant embassies. Ambassador Blake won the Baker-Wilkins Award for best Deputy Chief of Mission in the world for his service in that particular role.

In his long career as a career member of the Foreign Service, he served in Turkey, Tunis, Algiers, Cairo. He has had the demanding job of watch officer at the State Department Ops Center. He is extremely well qualified for dealing with the issues that will be presented in Indonesia. Perhaps most significantly to this committee, he was an intern on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for Senator Pell years ago.

It is easy for a family member to say nice things about Bob Blake. It is perhaps more meaningful what his colleagues think about him. He has received the State Department's Distinguished Service Award. He has received the Presidential Meritorious Service Award. He has received the Senior Foreign Service Performance Award it looks like nine times in a row, from 2003 through 2012. As I said, he got the Baker-Wilkins Award for the best Deputy Chief of Mission in 2005. He has won five different Superior Honor Awards, five different Meritorious Honor Awards.

And I look forward to a quick and uncontroversial confirmation of this very distinguished career member of our Foreign Service, and I wish him well.

And I want to recognize also his wife, Sofia, and two of his three daughters, unless somebody is hiding, who are here also to join their dad as he undergoes the ordeal of a confirmation hearing. So love to you all. And my aunt Sylvia is here as well.

Thank you, Chairman.

Senator CARDIN. Well, it is wonderful to have the Whitehouse-Blake family here. We are very pleased to have you all here. It is a real pleasure to get to know Senator Whitehouse's family a little bit better.

We know that you have an incredible record and legacy on foreign service. For all four of the nominees here today, you have

made a career of public service. So we thank all four of you for your commitment to an extremely challenging—and putting your family at—the sacrifices that are required. So we thank not only you, but we thank each member of your family for being willing to serve our country in this very difficult time.

As you know, President Obama has the rebalance to Asia agenda. So each of these countries are in a critical position to help U.S. interests in that region. And we, therefore, thank each of you for your willingness to step forward. Congratulations on your nominations. We thank you for the sacrifices that you are making.

To our four nominees, the countries you are headed to are important U.S. partners in building regional stability and prosperity as we rebalance our foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific region. The Philippines, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Palau are thriving democracies which share our values. Yet, we have a unique relationship with each of these four countries.

With the Philippines, our strategic treaty ally, we are revitalizing our defense alliance and promoting inclusive, sustainable economic growth through a Partnership for Progress which will be beneficial to both the countries.

And during his October visit, President Obama may discuss the possibility of the Philippines joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations.

Our maritime security. The United States and the Philippines agree that disputes must be resolved through peaceful means with direct negotiations of the parties involved. About half the world's trade passes through the South China Sea. We have a direct economic interest in the peaceful resolutions of the maritime disputes. We strongly support the efforts being made by ASEAN to develop a code of conduct for the South China Sea, and our Embassy there can play a very important role in preventing first a spark from igniting a major incident that could present challenges for the United States.

Despite the vibrant democracy, the Philippines faces challenges in strengthening the rule of law and increasing transparency. Most concerning is the military practice of extrajudicial executions and the culture of impunity which President Aquino is trying to address.

Nearby Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia and the most populous Muslim majority nation in the world. Indonesia has emerged from decades of dictatorship to become a vibrant democracy and is now a leader in the region. Indeed, Indonesia is the key player in getting ASEAN and China to the table on maritime security issues. So here in Indonesia, we have a key opportunity to be able to promote one of our major objectives in Asia.

The United States-Indonesia relationship is thankfully entering a new era of maturity. A 2013 Pew opinion poll showed that 61 percent of Indonesians have a positive view of the United States. I hope that remains true after the problems we are having in Congress this week. Of course, this may be partly because the President spent 4 years of his childhood in Jakarta. The Obama administration skillfully built on these ties to create a comprehensive partnership which covers issues ranging from education to security

to the environment, an increasingly critical element of our partnership.

The country boasts a stunning rich biodiversity which we will work together to protect through the Coral Triangle Initiative and other partnerships.

This year Indonesia hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, APEC. And I know, Mr. Blake, that you are eager to get out there before President Obama arrives on October 7. So we better get to work, otherwise we will have to pay for another airfare.

If confirmed, I hope when you do get there, you will prioritize critical rule of law issues and military reform and promote human rights and religious tolerance for all minorities.

Asia's newest nation, Timor-Leste, which gained independence from Indonesia in 2002, is a democracy success story. U.N. peace-keeper forces withdrew last year after they reached the important milestone of peaceful, democratic elections. That is something to be proud of, and we need to help do what we can to ensure the continued success of democracy and its economy continuing to grow stronger and make progress toward becoming an ASEAN member.

The Republic of Palau, situated in a geostrategically important position in the Pacific near critical sea-lanes of communication and rich fishing grounds is an important partner for regional security. Our compact obligates us to defend it against attack and allow us exclusive strategic access. We have agreed to an additional term of direct funding of the compact, and Congress is working to identify the funds to do so.

Palau is a good example of a successful Pacific island democracy. It also is a success story for women's rights in democracy. Of the four countries, Palau's traditional matrimonial culture and legal structure provides the most protection for women promoting equal treatment, equal employment, and equal pay. And I want to talk a little bit about that because I do believe this can be a model for us because there are many other countries in that region that do not have at all the same progress that has been made on gender equality.

In terms of gender equality in the other countries, we have a mixed picture. The Philippines prioritized gender equity. It was the first ASEAN country to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which the United States has yet to do, and has had two women Presidents, and we have not had a woman President yet. Yet, like the United States, it still struggles to realize the promise of equal pay for women and domestic violence remains a significant problem.

Indonesia and Timor-Leste, on the other hand, face more severe challenges to women's rights and empowerment as their legal and traditional structures limit women's rights. Both countries, however, are making improvements.

If confirmed, I hope that all four of you will advocate for social, political, and economic empowerment of women in your countries and throughout the region. Ensuring human rights, strengthening governance, and protecting the fragile environment must be top priorities for diplomacy in this region.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts in regards to these and other issues.

So we have a lot to build on as far as success in all four of these countries. All four of these countries play an important role for the United States and our strategic interests, and all four have challenges that we need to try to help strengthen. I hope that you will look at your opportunity, if confirmed as Ambassadors, to advance all these goals.

Mr. Blake, you have already been introduced. So let me at this time introduce the Honorable Philip Goldberg, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, who is currently Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Prior to that, he was the Department's coordinator for the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1874 on North Korea sanctions. I must tell you I was recently in South Korea. Actually I stepped into North Korea one step at the DMZ. So I know the challenges that you had in that particular post.

You have also served as Ambassador in LaPaz, Bolivia, and Chief of Mission of the U.S. Office in Pristina, Kosovo. Other senior level positions include Chargé and Deputy Chief of Mission in Santiago, Chile, and acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. So you bring an impressive record into this nomination.

The President's nominee to represent us in Timor-Leste, Mrs. Karen Stanton, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. She is currently serving as Executive Director of the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. Previously she served as the East Asia and Pacific Deputy Executive Director. Prior to that, she was Management Counselor in Singapore. She has also held management positions in the Bureau of Human Resources and East Asia and Pacific Affairs and has served in Beijing, Islamabad, and Hong Kong. An impressive record also as you come before our committee.

Ms. Amy Hyatt is also a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, has been Management Counselor in Cairo since 2011. Prior roles include a diplomat in residence at Arizona State University, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé in Helsinki, and Management Counselor in Prague. In Washington, she has served in management positions in the Bureau of Human Resources and East Asia and Pacific Affairs and Political Analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Her overseas assignments include Manila, Bangkok, Oslo, and Seoul.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Blake, you have already been introduced, but we are very proud of your Maryland roots and we are very proud of your distinguished record of achievements.

I have been joined by the ranking member of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, Senator Rubio, and I will now yield to Senator Rubio for any comments that he may have.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARCO RUBIO,
U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA**

Senator RUBIO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And congratulations to all the nominees, and thank you for your willingness to serve our country.

The countries we are going to talk about today represent an important cross section of the relationships we have throughout East Asia.

The Philippines, for example, is a top trading partner of the United States and an important ally in security, as reaffirmed in the 2011 Manila Declaration.

In Indonesia we have worked to boost bilateral relations with and to enhance cooperation along the lines of the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership.

Our relationship with Palau was forged in the aftermath of World War II, and we continue to cooperate on many issues on international affairs.

And, of course, Timor-Leste is a new nation with which the United States is building and strengthening its partnership.

But speaking more broadly, what I want to stress is that our relationships in East Asia are of central importance to America's interests overseas. And the work done by our embassies in the region are a key component of our efforts to pivot more attention to the Pacific. Such a pivot should not be one-dimensional, of course. It must be multifaceted and has to encompass comprehensive efforts that include engagement over our diplomatic and economic interests, as well as our regard for security concerns. Close cooperation with East Asia offers great opportunities for both the United States and for our partners there. And just as the United States continues to be an engine for progress and innovation, East Asia brings together a vibrancy, energy, and diversity that can fuel development and growth.

We also, however, face great challenges together such as those posed by extremists who work to attack us as well as our allies in the region. And as I have said before, a prosperous, democratic, and stable East Asia is crucial to our own safety and our own prosperity. And I hope that these goals top your priorities for American diplomatic engagement.

Toward these goals, I would say that there is no substitute for transparent, accountable, and responsive government. Such a commitment by governments leads not only to greater economic opportunity and to increasing security, but it also promotes our values, including our unwavering commitment to the values that bind the United States together with democracies in the region. This should include a willingness to highlight the importance of human rights and of religious freedom. Even to our allies, we should be willing to highlight that.

This brings up a concern that troubles me greatly and that is the issue of human slavery or human trafficking. The Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of human trafficking victims in the world at the rate of 3.3 victims per 1,000 inhabitants. I have cited this figure before and do so again because it is absolutely so shocking to me, as it should be to everyone. And I would urge all of you, if you are confirmed, to take up the fight against human trafficking and support of human rights, including religious freedom, as a central part of your mission overseas.

So I want to thank all of you once again for your willingness to serve our country, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.

And I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for scheduling this hearing.

Senator CARDIN. Well, thank you for your comments.

We will start with Secretary Goldberg.

STATEMENT OF HON. PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ambassador GOLDBERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senator Rubio.

It is a great honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to become the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. I am deeply grateful to the President and Secretary Kerry for placing their confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve our country.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and the Philippines have a deep and longstanding alliance based on democratic values and mutual interests, a shared history, and strong people-to-people connections. During World War II, soldiers from our two nations fought shoulder to shoulder to beat back the spread of tyranny. Today, the Philippines, one of only five U.S. treaty allies in the East Asia and Pacific region, is a vibrant democracy, an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, and home to Asia's second-fastest growing economy. President Obama will travel to Manila early next month in recognition of the importance of this relationship. If confirmed, I look forward to building on this already solid foundation between our two countries to strengthen ties at all levels.

Mr. Chairman, a cornerstone of our relationship with the Philippines is a shared commitment to stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. We are partners in countering a wide range of threats, from terrorism and transnational criminal networks to cyber attacks and humanitarian disasters. Our two militaries engage in regular cooperation and training to strengthen and increase interoperability for defense, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counterterrorism, and nonproliferation. We are working together to help the Philippines support its security goals of monitoring its maritime domain and ensuring civilian law enforcement elements can provide internal security. In support of the Obama administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, we are negotiating a framework agreement that would enable an increased rotational presence of U.S. forces in the Philippines. We also support Philippine efforts to reduce tensions surrounding the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, both through the creation of a code of conduct between ASEAN members and China and through internationally accepted dispute resolution mechanisms.

Our partnership with the Philippines is broad-based and multifaceted. We share strong economic and commercial ties. The United States is the Philippines' second-largest trading partner. We are also the country's largest foreign investor. But much more work needs to be done in order to bring the benefits of free trade and economic prosperity enjoyed by other countries in Southeast Asia to the 39 million Filipinos, roughly 42 percent of the country, who live on less than \$2 a day. If confirmed, I will seek to expand our economic relationship, which will benefit people of both countries. Through the Partnership for Growth and the Millennium Challenge Compact, our initiatives reinforce the Aquino administration's efforts to address corruption, improve economic competitiveness, and promote growth that is both inclusive and sustainable.

Our foreign assistance is also focused on health, education, good governance, energy, and the environment. Importantly, President Aquino has shown the political will and commitment to tackle corruption and promote good governance and respect for human rights.

Last, I would be remiss if I did not mention the special bonds that characterize our bilateral relationship. There are over 200,000 American citizens residing in the Philippines, and nearly 4 million people of Filipino origin in this country. Our public diplomacy programs build a long-term foundation for understanding and collaboration. Since 1961, some 8,500 Peace Corps Volunteers have been forging people-to-people partnerships between our two countries.

Mr. Chairman, for the past 3 years, I have had the honor to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and having served as Chief of Mission two times overseas, with sizeable interagency components, I believe I am prepared to meet the challenges of this very important and large mission in East Asia.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and its members as we both carry out our shared efforts and hopes to strengthen our relations with the Philippines.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Goldberg follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. PHILIP S. GOLDBERG

Chairman Cardin, Senator Rubio, members of the committee; it is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to become the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. I am deeply grateful to the President and Secretary Kerry for placing their confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve the United States of America.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and the Philippines have a deep and long-standing alliance based on democratic values and mutual interests, a shared history, and strong people-to-people connections. During World War II, soldiers from our two nations fought shoulder to shoulder to beat back the spread of tyranny. Today, the Philippines, one of only five U.S. treaty allies in the East Asia and Pacific region, is a vibrant democracy, an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and home to Asia's second-fastest growing economy. On November 16, 2011, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the signing of the Manila Declaration between then-Secretary of State Clinton and her counterpart, Foreign Secretary del Rosario. The following spring, we convened a historic 2+2 Ministerial in Washington, followed by President Aquino's visit to the White House in June 2012. And as you know, President Obama will travel to Manila early next month. If confirmed, I look forward to building on this already solid foundation between our countries to strengthen ties at all levels.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, a cornerstone of our relationship with the Philippines is a shared commitment to stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. We are partners in countering a wide range of threats, from terrorism and transnational criminal networks to cyber attacks and humanitarian disasters. Our two militaries engage in regular cooperation and training to strengthen and increase interoperability for defense as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counterterrorism and nonproliferation. We are working together to help the Philippines support its security goals of monitoring its maritime domain and ensuring civilian law enforcement elements can provide internal security. In support of the Obama administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, we are negotiating a Framework Agreement that would enable an increased rotational presence of U.S. forces to the Philippines, enhance opportunities for joint military training and exercises, and allow for the prepositioning of equipment and supplies to respond quickly to natural disasters. We also support Philippine efforts to reduce tensions surrounding the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, both through the creation of a Code of Conduct between ASEAN member states and China, and through internationally accepted dispute resolution mechanisms like those provided for under the

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ensuring freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea remains an important U.S. national interest shared by the Philippines and others in the region.

Our partnership with the Philippines is broad-based and multifaceted. We share strong economic and commercial ties—the United States is the Philippines' second-largest trading partner with \$22 billion in two-way trade last year. We are also the country's largest foreign investor. But much more work needs to be done in order to bring the benefits of free trade and economic prosperity enjoyed by other countries in Southeast Asia, to the 39 million Filipinos—roughly 42 percent of the country—who live on less than \$2 a day. If confirmed, I will seek to expand our economic relationship, which will benefit people of both countries. Through the Partnership for Growth, which we support through 10 U.S. agencies, and the Millennium Challenge Compact, our initiatives reinforce the Aquino administration's efforts to address corruption, improve economic competitiveness and promote growth that is both inclusive and sustainable. Our foreign assistance is also focused on health, education, good governance, energy and the environment. The Philippines has long had the resources necessary to achieve its full potential. President Aquino has shown the political will and commitment to tackle corruption and promote good governance and respect for human rights.

Last, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the special bonds that characterize our bilateral relationship. Our public diplomacy programs build a long-term foundation for understanding and collaboration. Since 1961, some 8,500 Peace Corps Volunteers have been forging people-to-people partnerships between our two countries. There are over 200,000 American citizens residing in the Philippines and nearly 4 million people of Filipino origin in this country. Filipino Americans have made their mark by contributing to our country in so many fields. It is no surprise, therefore, that our Embassy in Manila is one of the largest visa processing posts in the world, both for travelers to the United States and those who seek to reunite with members of their family. The Philippines is also home to the only U.S. Veterans clinic overseas.

Mr. Chairman, for the past 3½ years I have been the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department. I have twice served as a Chief of Mission overseas, leading sizeable interagency teams, as Ambassador to Bolivia from 2006 to 2008 and Chief of Mission to Kosovo from 2004 to 2006. I have also been engaged in diplomatic efforts in East Asia in working to prevent North Korea's proliferation activities and have led interagency delegations to Southeast Asia toward that end. I believe that these experiences have prepared me well to be in charge of a large mission to an important ally in the Asia-Pacific region. If confirmed by the Senate, I look forward to leading the 1,400 outstanding men and women, both American and Filipino, who work in Embassy Manila.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you very much for your testimony.
Secretary Blake.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT O. BLAKE, JR., OF MARYLAND,
TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Ambassador BLAKE. Mr. Chairman, Senator Rubio, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the next Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia. I am deeply grateful to the President and to Secretary Kerry for placing their confidence in me and for this incredible opportunity to serve the United States in this country of growing strategic importance to the United States.

I want to thank Senator Whitehouse for his gracious introduction, and if confirmed, I hope I can reciprocate by hosting CODEL Whitehouse in Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Whitehouse already introduced my wife, Sofia, and two of our three daughters, Kalena and Alexie. It is with their love and support that I have been able to serve our great Nation in ever-more challenging assignments. But I would also like to recognize my parents, Robert and Sylvia Blake, who are here today. My father had a distinguished career in the Foreign Service

and instilled in me a respect for public service and an interest for foreign affairs. He is a big part of why I am here today.

Mr. Chairman, as you said, Indonesia is a strategic partner of the United States. It is the world's third-largest democracy, the most populous Muslim majority country, and an emerging economic leader. It is a member of the G20, the 2013 host of APEC, as well as the WTO ministerial, and a major influence within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Our countries share common values and increasingly convergent interests. If confirmed, one of my priorities will be to continue to broaden and deepen our bilateral relations.

Mr. Chairman, 3 years after President Obama and Indonesian President Yudhoyono signed our Comprehensive Partnership in 2010, we have arrived at an unprecedented level of interaction between our governments and it is my intention to sustain and build on that. Today, the United States looks to Indonesia as a valued partner in areas such as counterterrorism, environmental conservation, peacekeeping operations, and the promotion of human rights. Indonesia is also an important partner in our Asia rebalance policy.

Fifteen years ago, as Indonesia began its transition to democracy after decades of authoritarian rule and the Asian financial crisis, the prospects for Indonesia's future were uncertain. It is a testament to the commitment of the Indonesian people that a retreat from democracy is today unthinkable, and the work of institutionalizing open and inclusive governance continues.

The nature of our assistance is also changing. There are significant sectors such as higher education, health, and strengthening local government where the United States must continue to support Indonesia's efforts to build capacity. And with the support, Indonesia is on a steady path to assume its place as a middle-income country and expand its ability to engage with the United States and others. But Indonesia supports our goal to cofinance programs with the government, private sector, and civil society. We also have a robust defense cooperation agreement that supports international military education and training programs, as well as foreign military sales.

The United States has committed funds to support a \$600 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact that focuses on low carbon development through financing for clean and renewable energy, sustainable land and forest management, as well as other priorities such as nutrition assistance.

If confirmed, I will pursue increased trade and investment opportunities for U.S. business, deepen our collaboration on innovations in science and technology, and share America's stories and values with the Indonesian people through our vigorous public diplomacy programs. I will also continue to engage with Indonesians to support their goals to strengthen democratic institutions and rule of law and seek continued progress on protection of members of religious minorities, curbing trafficking in persons, and upholding the rights of women.

Mr. Chairman, in my 28 years in the Foreign Service, I have been fortunate to serve our country in diplomatic postings in South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, including most recently as Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and my current position

as Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia. If confirmed, I will rely on these experiences to lead our mission in Indonesia to tackle the challenges of the 21st century including, particularly, a sharp focus on the security for our personnel and private Americans. If confirmed, I will look forward to working with this committee and with each of you as we continue to carry out the President's priorities in Asia.

So, again, I thank you for this opportunity today, and I would be honored to take your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Blake follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ROBERT O. BLAKE

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to become the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia. I am deeply grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for placing their confidence in me and for the incredible opportunity to serve the United States in this country of growing strategic importance to us.

I would also like to introduce my wife, Sofia, and our three daughters, Kalena, Zara, and Alexie. It is with their unconditional love and support that I have been able to serve our great Nation for the last 28 years in ever-more challenging assignments. I would also like to recognize my parents Robert and Sylvia Blake who are here today. My father had a distinguished career in the Foreign Service and instilled in me a respect for public service and an interest in foreign affairs. Whatever good habits I have acquired as a diplomat can largely be ascribed to his and my mother's good genes and example.

Mr. Chairman, Indonesia, an emerging power, is a strategic partner of the United States. It is the world's third-largest democracy, the most populous Muslim-majority country, and an emerging economic leader, not only in Southeast Asia, but globally. Indonesia is a member of the G20, the 2013 host of APEC and the WTO Ministerial, and a major influence within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Our countries share common values, and, if confirmed, it will be one of my priorities to continue to elevate and deepen our bilateral relationship. Three years after President Obama and Indonesian President Yudhoyono signed the Comprehensive Partnership in 2010, we have arrived at an unprecedented level of interaction between our governments, and it is my intention to sustain and build on that. If confirmed, I will also seek to further the work of my predecessors to increase the people-to-people linkages among our citizens through educational and professional exchanges and public-private partnerships to create a long-term foundation for mutual understanding and collaboration.

Fifteen years ago, as Indonesia began its transition to democracy after decades of authoritarian rule, the prospects for Indonesia's future were very uncertain. It is a testament to the commitment of the Indonesian people that a retreat from democracy is unthinkable, and the work of institutionalizing open and inclusive governance and increasing capacity continues. Mr. Chairman, you and others on this committee may recall that there was a time when the United States had limited engagement with Indonesia. That time has passed. Today, the United States looks to Indonesia as a responsible emerging leader in the region and a valued partner in areas such as counterterrorism, environmental conservation, peacekeeping operations, and the regional and global promotion of human rights and democratic governance. Indonesia is also an important partner in our Asia rebalance policy to promote regional prosperity, underpinned by regional security and stability.

The nature of our U.S. foreign assistance relationship is also transforming. There are significant sectors—higher education, health, and strengthening local governance—where the United States must continue to support Indonesia's efforts to build capacity and improve outcomes. We also have a robust defense cooperation agreement that supports international military education and training programs, as well as foreign military sales. With this support, Indonesia is on a steady path to eventually assume its place as a middle-income country and expand its ability to engage in bilateral and trilateral cooperation, including with the United States.

The United States has committed foreign assistance funds to support a \$600 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact that focuses on development of clean and renewable energy, sustainable land and forest management, nutrition assistance, and procurement modernization. Indonesia is among the top emitters of greenhouse gas and is one of several target countries for the President's Global Climate Change initiative. The United States has launched a number of significant

climate change and environmental cooperation programs with Indonesia to help address deforestation and land use challenges and advance Indonesia's efforts in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. These efforts include the Indonesia Forestry and Climate Support Program and the Sustainable Landscapes Initiative; collaboration on peatland science and mapping; support for systems for monitoring, reporting, and verifying greenhouse gas emissions; and implementing low emissions development strategies.

There is more work for us to do, however. If confirmed, I will pursue increased trade and investment and opportunities for U.S. businesses, deepen our collaboration on innovations in science and technology, and share America's story and values with the Indonesian people through Public Diplomacy programs. I will also continue to engage with Indonesia's representatives and citizens to support Indonesia's goals to strengthen its democratic institutions and rule of law. I will also seek continued progress on protection of members of religious minorities and trafficking in persons.

Mr. Chairman, in my 28-year career in the Foreign Service I have been fortunate to serve the United States in both Washington and in diplomatic postings abroad in South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, including as Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and my current position as Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs at the Department of State. If confirmed, I will bring the variety of my experiences, including policy and management responsibilities, to lead our mission in Indonesia to tackle the challenges of the 21st century, including the oversight of security for our personnel in our Embassy and constituent posts. If confirmed, I will look forward to working with this committee and engaging with each of you further, whether here in Washington or during your visits to the region, as we continue to carry out the President's priorities in Asia.

Senator CARDIN. I want to thank you for your testimony.

Ms. Stanton.

STATEMENT OF KAREN CLARK STANTON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Ms. STANTON. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and Senator Rubio, thank you very much. I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. I am sincerely grateful for the trust and confidence the President and Secretary Kerry have shown in nominating me.

Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, I would like to introduce my daughter, Ellie, here behind me, who is here to represent my family. My husband, Bill, is a retired Foreign Service officer and working in Taiwan, and my elder daughter, Kate, is in Australia.

Since I joined the Foreign Service in 1980, I have spent virtually my entire career supporting U.S. interests in Asia, mostly in consular and management positions. For the last 4 years, I have served as the Executive Director in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. The Bureau's Executive Office has been at the forefront of the State Department's effort to increase efficiency and contain costs in our overseas management. If confirmed, I pledge to bring all my skills and experience to provide the best possible leadership and management of the American Embassy in Timor-Leste.

My first experience with Timor-Leste was in 2002 when, on an earlier tour in the East Asia Bureau's Executive Office, I worked on the process for opening our new Embassy in Dili. I can remember wondering how this new country would overcome so many daunting challenges, but since that time, Timor-Leste has made significant progress. It is in many ways a remarkable success story.

The year 2012 alone was full of watershed moments for the country. Free and fair Presidential and parliamentary elections, suc-

cessful transfers of authority to a new President and a new coalition government, celebration of the country's 10th anniversary of independence, the conclusion of the U.N. integrated mission and the International Stabilization Force, and the first visit of a U.S. Secretary of State. Timor-Leste has become a model young democracy and a significant achievement for U.N. peacekeeping.

The United States is committed to helping Timor-Leste build on its accomplishments in maintaining and increasing stability, institutionalizing democratic governance, expanding the rule of law and access to justice, and promoting prosperity. We are working to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between Timorese and U.S. citizens to reinforce appreciation for our shared values and communicate U.S. commitment to our partnership with Timor-Leste.

The U.S. military has an active program to support the ongoing professionalization of Timor-Leste's security and law enforcement agencies. Several U.S. agencies work with counterparts in Timor-Leste to strengthen their law enforcement capabilities. If given the honor of serving as Ambassador, I will build on these efforts to achieve security sector reforms necessary for a lasting peace.

The United States also supports efforts to strengthen democratic governance, accountability, and justice institutions in Timor-Leste. We support expanding access to justice for society's most vulnerable groups, including women and girls, and promote efforts to eliminate the scourge of gender-based violence. We are contributing to efforts to build human and institutional capacity within the judicial, legislative, human rights, and accountability bodies. If confirmed, I will work hard to advance human and political rights and good governance in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste has natural resource industries that are instrumental in developing its economy and lifting its citizens from poverty. Income from the country's modest oil and gas reserves currently provides 95 percent of Timor-Leste's state revenues and 80 percent of its gross domestic product.

Despite its financial assets, however, Timor-Leste lacks adequate human capacity. Approximately half of the population lives below the poverty line of 88 cents per day. Timor-Leste will require additional technical assistance and foreign support to enable the government to effectively use its own resources to address its people's urgent needs.

Our assistance programs focus on reducing poverty, stimulating economic growth, and building the human and institutional capacity needed to sustain Timor's success into the future. If confirmed, I will ensure that U.S. taxpayer funds are invested wisely to enable the Timorese to help themselves.

As we support stability and democracy in Timor-Leste, we are also developing an enduring partnership to promote democracy and human rights around the world. Time and again, the Government of Timor-Leste has joined with the United States in casting critical votes supporting core human rights principles at the United Nations.

Timor-Leste is an active international player, aspiring to ASEAN membership, and at the cutting edge of the aid effectiveness movement. It is a model for fragile states and for nation-building in post-conflict areas worldwide.

The United States is honored to partner with the Timorese, in concert with its many international friends, to ensure that the country consolidates its gains and continues to advance. Challenges remain, but with our continued support, Timor-Leste will create a brighter future for its people.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Rubio, thank you for allowing me to appear before you today. I am pleased to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Stanton follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF KAREN C. STANTON

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. I am sincerely grateful for the trust and confidence the President and Secretary Kerry have shown in nominating me.

Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, I would like to introduce my daughter, Ellie, who is here today to represent my far-flung family. My husband, Bill, a retired Foreign Service officer, is working in Taiwan, and my elder daughter, Kate, works in Australia. I joined the Foreign Service in 1980, in the midst of the Iranian hostage crisis. I spoke some French and had studied Western European politics, but reflecting the "worldwide availability" the Foreign Service prides itself on, the State Department sent me to Hong Kong. Since then, I have spent virtually my entire career supporting U.S. interests in Asia, mostly in consular and management positions, including as a consular officer in China during the Tiananmen Square protests. For the last 4 years, I have served as the Executive Director in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. The Bureau's Executive Office has been at the forefront of the State Department's effort to increase efficiency and contain costs in our overseas management. If confirmed, I pledge to bring all my skills and abilities to provide the best possible leadership and management of the American Embassy in Timor-Leste.

My first experience with Timor-Leste was in 2002, when on an earlier tour in the East Asia Bureau's Executive Office, I worked on the process for opening our then-new Embassy in Dili. I can remember wondering how this new country would overcome so many daunting challenges, but since that time Timor-Leste has made significant progress. It is in many ways a remarkable success story.

The year 2012 alone was full of watershed moments for the country: free and fair Presidential and parliamentary elections, successful transfers of authority to a new President and a new coalition government, celebration of the country's 10th anniversary of independence, the conclusion of the U.N. integrated mission and the International Stabilization Force, and the first visit of a U.S. Secretary of State. Timor-Leste has become a model young democracy and a significant achievement for U.N. peacekeeping.

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The U.S. military has an active program to support the ongoing professionalization of Timor-Leste's security and law enforcement agencies. The U.S. Pacific Command conducts exercises and exchanges. A U.S. Navy Seabee detachment works with Timorese military engineers to build or rehabilitate schools, clinics, and community centers, an effort which has been warmly received by the Timorese public. The Department of State supports the National Police in a number of ways, including through assignment of two U.S. police advisors in Dili. An array of U.S. agencies, including the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and the Coast Guard, works with counterparts in Timor-Leste to strengthen their law enforcement capabilities. If given the honor of serving as Ambassador, I will build on these efforts to achieve security sector reforms necessary for a lasting peace.

The United States also supports efforts to strengthen democratic governance, accountability, and justice institutions in Timor-Leste. We support expanding access to justice for society's most vulnerable groups, including women and girls, and promote efforts to eliminate the scourge of gender-based violence. We are contributing to efforts to build human and institutional capacity within the judicial, legislative,

human rights, and accountability bodies. If confirmed, I will work hard to advance human and political rights and good governance in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste has natural resource industries that are instrumental in developing its economy and lifting its citizens from poverty. Income from the country's modest oil and gas reserves currently provides 95 percent of Timor-Leste's state revenues and 80 percent of its gross domestic product. Timor-Leste was the third country in the world and the first in Asia to become fully compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Despite its financial assets, however, Timor-Leste lacks adequate human capacity. Approximately half of the population lives below the poverty line of 88 cents per day. Timor-Leste ranks near the bottom worldwide in terms of maternal and infant mortality and malnourishment. Timor-Leste will require additional technical assistance and foreign support to enable the government to effectively use its own resources to address its people's urgent needs.

Our assistance programs focus on reducing poverty, stimulating economic growth, and building the human and institutional capacity needed to sustain Timor's progress into the future. If confirmed, I will ensure that U.S. taxpayer funds are invested wisely to enable the Timorese to help themselves.

As we support stability and democracy in Timor-Leste, we are also developing an enduring partnership to promote democracy and human rights around the world. Time and again, the Government of Timor-Leste has joined with the United States in casting critical votes supporting core human rights principles at the United Nations.

Timor-Leste is an active international player, aspiring to ASEAN membership and at the cutting edge of the aid effectiveness movement. It is a model for fragile states and for nation-building in post-conflict areas worldwide.

The United States is honored to partner with the Timorese, in concert with its many international friends, to ensure that the country consolidates its gains and continues to advance. Challenges remain, but with our continued support, Timor-Leste will create a brighter future for its people.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you for your testimony.
Ms. Hyatt.

**STATEMENT OF AMY JANE HYATT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

Ms. HYATT. Mr. Chairman, Senator Rubio, I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Palau. I am sincerely grateful for the trust and confidence that the President and Secretary Kerry have placed in me.

Permit me to express my gratitude to dear friends and colleagues who have stood by me and helped mentor me to help me be where I am today and through the years, and to John and Dee and to my late parents, Rene and Ernie, and most especially my three children, Erin, Zach, and Emma. My family has been shaped by our many years in the Foreign Service. My children have made sacrifices for my career. They have made them in good cheer—well, mostly in good cheer, occasional griping. And I am grateful for their understanding.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve my country for over 28 years in the Foreign Service, 10 of those years focused on East Asia. I am proud to represent the American people overseas.

The United States and the Republic of Palau have enjoyed a close and special relationship for over 60 years, a relationship forged in history from the battle of Peleliu in World War II, through trusteeship, until today as two independent nations closely bonded in friendship. The United States has built roads, hospitals, and schools on Palau and helped them develop a stable democracy modeled on our own system of government. Palau has come a long

way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing its success in promoting gender equality.

Palau has stood beside us in good times and bad. Young Palauans have fought with us in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently 500 Palauans serve in our military, and seven have made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. These are significant numbers for a country of under 20,000 people. No member state at the United Nations has a better record of voting with the United States than Palau.

In furtherance of our efforts to close Guantanamo Bay detention camp, Palau was one of the first countries to step forward to accept temporary resettlement of six ethnic Uighur detainees.

The United States and Palau concluded a compact of free association in 1994 that provided the framework for our bilateral relationship. Its provisions ensure the security of Palau and contribute to the security of the United States. The compact does not have a termination date, but requires a review at the 15-, 30-, and 40-year anniversaries. Our two governments worked closely over 20 months of discussions to conclude the 15-year review, which resulted in a bilateral agreement signed by both of our governments in 2010. This agreement is currently undergoing congressional review.

The maturity of the democratic process in a relatively young state as Palau is a testament to the people of the Pacific and reinforces the value of the compact as a vehicle for their transition to greater self-sufficiency. Implementation of that agreement is essential for the continuation of our relationship, as well as for Palau's continued economic development.

I hope Congress will approve the Palau legislation soon, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this issue. How we manage our relationship with Palau over the next several years will set a tone that could last for decades.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the members of this committee and other distinguished Members of Congress and your staff members to achieve U.S. policy goals, to strengthen our relationship with the Republic of Palau. I pledge to promote and protect U.S. interests, to pursue tirelessly human rights, freedom of religion, and to combat trafficking in persons. Most importantly, I pledge to ensure the security and well-being of American citizens in Palau and to lead effectively our talented and dedicated American and Palauan staff.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like to emphasize that Palau was our protectorate and is now our ally. The people of Palau are woven into the American fabric, serving with distinction and honor in our military, and living and working beside us in the United States. Palau remains a dependable partner in bolstering security in the western Pacific. As the economic center of gravity shifts to the Asia-Pacific region, the importance to U.S. interests of a stable, increasingly prosperous, and democratic Palau in this dynamic region continues to grow.

I thank you again for the privilege of appearing before you today. I am pleased to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Hyatt follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF PALAU AMY HYATT

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the next Ambassador to the Republic of Palau. I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence that President Obama and Secretary Kerry have placed in me. Permit me to express my deep gratitude to my three children: Erin, Zach, and Emma. My family has been shaped and tested by my many years in the Foreign Service, and we have emerged stronger in our commitment to public service.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve my country for over 28 years in the Foreign Service, 10 of those years in East Asia. I have served in Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as in Europe, the Middle East, and Washington. I have enjoyed every one of my tours and learned much about the languages and cultures of other countries. I am deeply grateful to be an American citizen and proud to be entrusted with representing the American people overseas. If confirmed, I will faithfully represent to the people of Palau the values and ideals we Americans hold dear and steadfastly pursue our country's interests in the region.

The United States and the Republic of Palau have enjoyed a close and special relationship for over 60 years. In 1947, the United Nations assigned the United States administering authority over the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which included Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. During that period, the United States built roads, hospitals, and schools and extended eligibility for U.S. federal programs in the Trust Territory. Over the years, several of the trustee islands sought changes in their political status, leading to full independence. Palau adopted its own constitution in 1981, and the governments of the United States and Palau concluded a Compact of Free Association that entered into force on October 1, 1994.

Our Compact of Free Association provides the framework for much of our bilateral relationship. Its provisions ensure the security of Palau and contribute to the security of the United States. Palau now has a new President—Tommy Remengesau, Jr.—and new Cabinet in place, and how we manage our relationship with Palau over the next several years will set a tone that could last decades. If confirmed, I will work closely with this committee and Congress to ensure U.S. interests in the region are strengthened through a mutually beneficial and cooperative relationship with Palau.

Palau's stable government is modeled on our own. Palau shares our vision on important international goals for human rights and democracy. The maturity of the democratic process in a relatively young state as Palau is a testament to the strong values of the people of the Pacific and reinforces the value of the Compact as a vehicle for their transition to greater self-sufficiency.

Our Compact with Palau, which took effect in 1994, does not have a termination date and requires a review on the 15-, 30-, and 40-year anniversaries of its effective date. The direct economic assistance provisions of the Compact, however, expired on September 30, 2009. Our two governments worked closely over 20 months of discussions and negotiations to conclude the 15-year review, which resulted in a bilateral agreement signed by both our governments in September 2010. The Compact Review Agreement is currently undergoing congressional review. Implementation of the agreement is essential for the continuation of our relationship as well as for Palau's continued economic development and future self-sufficiency, and I hope Congress will approve the Palau legislation soon. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on the approval of Palau legislation.

With more than 20 U.S. Government agencies conducting programs in Palau, I believe it is important to improve coordination among them to ensure our efforts are effective and implemented with transparency and accountability. If confirmed, I will work especially closely with the Department of the Interior, which administers and oversees assistance to Palau under the Compact and its related agreements. Unfortunately, the Peace Corps will close its Palau office next year. The Peace Corps will continue to support volunteers currently in Palau until they end their service in August 2014. In the future, the Peace Corps will work with the Government of Palau in placing shorter term volunteers through the Peace Corps Response program. If confirmed, I will work with the Peace Corps and the Government of Palau to ensure the smooth transition of volunteers from longer term to shorter term assignments.

Under the Compact, citizens of Palau may live and work in the United States. Many of Palau's young adults are serving in the U.S. military today in Afghanistan and throughout the world. Palauans serving in our Armed Forces have made the ultimate sacrifice to make the world a safer place for us all. Palau's Ambassador

to the United States, Hersey Kyota, has two adult children serving in the Armed Forces. He has several nephews serving in the Army and Marine Corps. The sons and daughters of other Palauan Government officials and of ordinary Palauan citizens have also served honorably in U.S. military units through the decades.

The importance of our strong relationship with Palau extends beyond defense considerations. Palau is a loyal friend and ally in many other ways. Palau has a strong record for voting with the United States at the United Nations on a number of resolutions in the General Assembly. Over the years, Palau has stood by us and provided critical votes on issues vital to U.S. interests. Palau has the highest level of support for U.S. positions (over 95 percent) of any member state, including on key issues such as Israel and support for human rights. If confirmed, I will work with the Government of Palau on these important issues. In support of our efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, counterterrorism policy, in 2009, Palau temporarily resettled six ethnic Uighur detainees from Guantanamo at a time when few other countries were willing to step up. Palau has been a patient and cooperative partner with us as we work through permanent resettlement options for the remaining Uighurs. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Palau on this important and sensitive issue.

The United States and Palau have engaged in law enforcement exercises over the past year and have conducted joint maritime surveillance operations. Palau is also an active participant in the Shiprider program, an effort that benefits both Palau and U.S. maritime security initiatives. In addition, on August 15, 2013, the United States and Palau concluded a new maritime law enforcement agreement that will allow our two countries to further enhance maritime cooperation. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security and will continue to look for opportunities to conduct further joint surveillance operations that would include the Palau Pacific Patrol Boat.

The United States enjoys close cooperation with Palau on a range of environmental issues of critical concern in the Pacific. We have been a strong partner with the Pacific Islands in our shared efforts to achieve sustainable management of Pacific fisheries resources and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) fishing. President Remengesau has stated his intention to ban all commercial fishing in Palau's EEZ. If confirmed, I will work with the President to seek his views on replacing fishing revenue with tourism revenues. Palau is also a strong supporter of combating climate change. This year through the Department of State and USAID, we will fund a climate change adviser to help Palau with its climate change initiatives. I welcome engagement with our Regional Environment hub based in Suva as we identify and address mutual interests, both bilateral and regional, in the areas of environment and science.

Palau is a strong partner in fostering regional cooperation in the Pacific. Next year, Palau will host the 45th Pacific Island Forum (PIF), a premier intergovernmental organization that aims to enhance cooperation between the independent countries of the Pacific Ocean. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Palau to highlight U.S. priorities in the Pacific and our strong support for regional security and stability at next year's PIF. I will also work with regional partners to ensure that all U.S. assistance is transparent and coordinated with the work being done by other donors in the region, including Japan and Australia.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the members of this committee, other distinguished Members of Congress, and your staff members to achieve U.S. policy goals and strengthen our relationship with the Republic of Palau. I pledge to promote and protect U.S. interests and lead effectively our talented and dedicated American and Palauan staff.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like to emphasize that Palau was our protectorate but is now our ally. The people of Palau are woven into the American fabric, serving with distinction and honor in our military and living and working beside us in the United States. Palau remains a dependable partner in bolstering security in the Western Pacific. As the economic center of gravity shifts to the Asia-Pacific region, the importance to U.S. interests of a stable, increasingly prosperous, and democratic Palau in this dynamic region continues to grow.

Senator CARDIN. And thank you for your testimony. I thank all four of you for being here today and for your testimonies before the committee.

Ms. Hyatt, let me start with you. You mentioned the compact that was entered into between the United States and Palau in 1994, the fact that it was reviewed after 15 years. It has now been almost 20 years. It requires certain defense obligations that we

have, certain obligations that are mutual between the two countries. A lot has changed in 20 years.

Can you just share with us your view? You recommend that we approve the agreement that was entered into on the 15th-year review. Can you just review for us the strategic importance of Palau today to U.S. interests on security and economics?

Ms. HYATT. Certainly, and thank you for that question, Mr. Chairman.

Palau's location is strategic in the western Pacific. The compact agreement that we signed with Palau gives the United States access to sea, air, and land rights. It also gives us the important ability to deny that access to other nations. Palau has been a good partner to the United States both in the United Nations and serving with us in areas around the world. Palau has been a good partner. By funding and ratifying this agreement, we will be meeting our commitments and demonstrating to Palau that our commitments are important, that the United States word is good, and we will be demonstrating that to other nations in the Pacific.

Senator CARDIN. And how strategically important from a military point of view is access to that geography?

Ms. HYATT. Mr. Chairman, that is something that is being explored. Certainly its location is strategically important. I would be happy to take that question and provide more information as to its strategic location.

[The written reply to the question follows:]

The importance of our special relationship with Palau is most clearly manifested in the U.S. defense posture in the Asia-Pacific region, which forms a north-south arc from Japan and South Korea to Australia. Maintaining U.S. primacy in the Pacific depends on our strong relationship with the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, which along with Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the smaller U.S. territories comprise an invaluable east-west strategic security zone that spans almost the entire width of the Pacific Ocean.

Additionally, critical security developments in the region require the United States sustained presence and engagement, particularly given the range of U.S. strategic interests and equities in the Western Pacific. Essential elements of our presence include the Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site on U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands and disaster relief operations throughout the region.

The economic interests of the United States are deeply embedded in the region, and specifically Palau. The South Pacific Tuna Treaty between the United States and 16 Pacific Island Parties, including Palau, affords fishing access to their exclusive economic zones. The Treaty is an important component to the strong and mutually beneficial strategic and economic relationship between the United States and Palau. The average estimated value of U.S.-caught tuna landed in the region in recent years exceeds \$350 million, with a total annual contribution to the U.S. economy of between \$500 and \$600 million. Due the economic importance of this region to the United States, it is imperative that we maintain favorable relationships with all of our regional partners, including Palau.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you.

Let me, Mr. Blake, talk a little bit about the issue I raised in my opening comment and that is gender issues. Indonesia has significant problems. And let me acknowledge all four of the countries that are represented by the nominees today are close allies of the United States. We share a lot in common. They are democracies, and we want to build upon the shared values.

But Indonesia has one of the weakest legal protections for women and equality, with marriage laws stipulating that the men

are head of households, with discrimination in the workforce, etc. Can you just share with us your thoughts as to how the United States can help deal with gender equity issues in the Muslim-dominated country of Indonesia, recognizing there is a limit to what we can do but also recognizing that a way a country treats its women very much will affect its stability and growth?

Ambassador BLAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As you yourself said in your opening remarks, there has been, in fact, quite considerable improvement in the treatment of women in Indonesia over the last 15 years or so, and that tracks the broader improvement in human rights and trafficking in persons and religious freedom that we have seen in Indonesia.

I think now it is interesting to note that 4 of the Cabinet members of Indonesia are women out of the 35. Roughly 18 percent of the members of Parliament are women, and I think there is a growing recognition of the importance of protecting and upholding the rights of women.

So we will continue to work very, very hard on this. This is one of the highest priorities we have, and I assure you that will be a priority for me.

Senator CARDIN. One of the major human rights concerns in the countries that you all would be stationed is the abuses of their military or their police, the extrajudicial matters, executions, detentions, et cetera. For a democracy, that is an issue that is a major, major concern. So I would like to get the views of the nominees particularly from the Philippines and Indonesia but Leste also has an issue on this matter.

So, Secretary Goldberg, we will start with you.

Ambassador GOLDBERG. Mr. Chairman, it is a very important issue and one we have worked with the Philippines on for some time in our efforts to improve the rule of law and to work with the Filipinos as they try to strengthen institutions, including the military and the police, and their ability to deal with issues, especially the one you mentioned of extrajudicial executions.

There have been some encouraging signs in strengthening the rule of law under the Aquino government. There is an interagency commission formed to try to help with prosecutions and investigations of extrajudicial killings. But it is still an important issue and one that is not fully resolved and one we have to continue to work on, both through our assistance programs in trying to strengthen the institutions and the rule of law that will ultimately allow the problem to be handled in a way befitting a democratic country, but also to encourage diplomatically observance of these very important rights.

Senator CARDIN. Mr. Blake.

Ambassador BLAKE. Mr. Chairman, this has been a high priority for the United States for many, many years now in Indonesia. In part because of our efforts, in part mostly because of the efforts of the Indonesian Armed Forces and the court system and the political leadership, there has been quite considerable improvement in the human rights performance of the security forces in Indonesia. That led us to lift sanctions on the Indonesian military in 2005. The one unit of the Indonesian military where we still have some

restrictions is the special forces, the so-called Kopassus, where we have begun a process of calibrated reengagement.

But I think it is quite notable that earlier this year, for example, there was an incident where members of Kopassus broke into a jail and executed several people. They were brought to trial and were given sentences of between 6 and 11 years which were unprecedented for the Indonesians. So certainly there is scope to do more and we will continue to engage on this. But I think it is important to note that the Indonesians themselves have made this a priority.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you.

Ms. Stanton, the problem in Timor-Leste is more with the police and excessive use of force, et cetera. Can you just share with me your thoughts in that regard?

Ms. STANTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yes. Certainly many of the problems faced by Timor-Leste in the middle part of the first decade of the 21st century had to do with the lack of discipline and concerns within the police and the military which led to disruption in civil order. These are, of course, key concerns for the United States and Timor-Leste. As I mentioned in my testimony, we have both U.S. military and U.S. law enforcement agencies working with their partners in Timor-Leste to assist them with the professionalization of both the military and the police. So far, since the departure of the United Nations and international peacekeepers, things have remained calm. Although there have been occasional problems, the government and the police and military in East Timor have successfully weathered these challenges.

So, of course, I want to ensure that we continue to make progress in this area and continue to have the support of agencies in the United States who can provide the kind of training that is essential to the professionalization of these organizations.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you.

Senator Rubio.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will begin with you, Mr. Goldberg. I just wanted to ask, is the United States fully clear with the Philippines on what the mutual defense treaty does or does not cover in the scenario of an armed conflict in the South China Sea? I guess, are the United States and the Philippines in full agreement on that?

Ambassador GOLDBERG. Certainly there are discussions. There was a 2+2 meeting of the Defense Ministers and the Secretary of State and the Foreign Ministers where issues like those are discussed.

I would point out, Senator Rubio, what we are encouraging, especially with regard to the South China Sea issues and the territorial claims, are peaceful and legal solutions, and these are the ones that the Philippines are pursuing through an arbitral process under the Law of the Sea convention and through trying to arrange a code of conduct with other ASEAN member states so that rules of the road in the South China Sea can be worked out. So they are looking for legal and peaceful means to resolve those disputes.

In terms of the mutual defense treaty, it is now 62 years old. It remains a cornerstone of our relationship, of our military relationship but also our alliance, and it does commit both sides to mutual

defense under articles 4 and 5. But I think in terms of its content and its applicability, I would not want to speculate or go into the kinds of hypotheticals and things like that.

Senator RUBIO. OK.

Mr. Blake, I really am interested in the Indonesian question. You know, there was a hearing before Tom Lantos' Human Rights Commission earlier this year, and there senior State Department officials stated that the United States Government has very serious concerns about the growing religious intolerance and violence against minorities in Indonesia, in particular, the promotion by Indonesian officials of discriminatory laws and policies and action in investigating and prosecuting members of radical Islamic groups who engage in violence against religious minorities, including Christians, Shia Muslims, others.

I have this article here published on the 24th of this month, the Catholic Herald from the U.K. Its headline reads: "Intolerance in Indonesia is Becoming Mainstream." It uses a term I guess I have heard for the first time, "Pakistanization," a phrase increasingly used in Indonesia to warn of the direction the country could be heading.

I guess, can you comment in general about this concern, this direction? Now they are having an election coming up in 2014. There are concerns about the current President's position with regard to some of these issues. It would be sad if Indonesia headed in that direction because we have often held it up as a model of what a moderate Muslim country can do in terms of tolerance. So your general perceptions of this issue and what you particularly intend to do as an ambassador to be a forceful voice on behalf of religious liberties.

Ambassador BLAKE. Thanks, Senator Rubio.

As you probably know, I have been working on South and Central Asia on these issues for the last 4½ years, and we have, I think, made some progress in some of the SEA countries. So this is an issue of great importance to me.

I guess I would take slight exception with whatever the article is that you were pointing to. I think there has been, as I said earlier, quite an important democratic evolution in Indonesia over the last 15 years. There is a tradition of tolerance and respect for religious diversity in Indonesia. Perhaps there are officials that might support this, but the President, President Yudhoyono, has himself criticized many times religious extremism and acts of violence against religious minorities and made it clear that those kinds of things will not be tolerated.

And I think it is important to note that as Indonesian civil society has emerged over the last 15 years as rule of law has strengthened, that Indonesian society, the growing middle class, rejects this kind of extremism as well. So, yes, it does exist but I think that the trends are positive in trying to address that.

And I do not think it is appropriate to compare it to the Pakistanization of Indonesia. I just do not think that is right.

But let me assure you that I will be very committed to working on these issues and to, again, forming strong partnerships with friends in government and in civil society in Indonesia to help combat this.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you.

Ms. Stanton, I just wanted to ask you quickly. The 2013 Trafficking in Persons report—in that report, Timor-Leste was designated as a Tier Two destination country for human trafficking women and girls from Indonesia, China, the Philippines. They are subjected to sex trafficking in Timor-Leste.

How would you encourage the government there to improve its fight against sex trafficking? Will that be a priority for you?

Ms. STANTON. Senator, thank you.

Absolutely that will be a priority for us.

The Government of Timor-Leste has draft legislation regarding trafficking, and we have been urging them to move it forward into their Parliament. That is something I will pay close attention to should I be confirmed and arrive in Timor-Leste. It is a key concern of ours in the State Department that this move forward and that they ensure the protection of these vulnerable groups.

Senator RUBIO. Thank you.

Before my time runs out here, Ms. Hyatt, I have a similar question for you. According to the same report, Palau is a Tier Two country as well. So what steps would you take to encourage them to join the 2000 United Nations Trafficking in Persons protocol and then, in general, to encourage the government there to improve its prevention, prosecution, and protection for human trafficking?

Ms. HYATT. Thank you for that question, Senator Rubio.

I have a very personal interest in trafficking in persons. I worked on those issues when I was Chargé in Finland before Finland understood the importance and was aware of the problems that existed. That is a success story now in Finland. And also as a trial attorney in San Francisco, I worked on those issues in that capacity.

The news in Palau is actually getting better because one of its first cases—the district attorney in Palau is prosecuting one of its first cases against trafficking. So, if confirmed, I would have a good partner in the government officials in Palau to address those issues. And let me assure you that they would be among my highest priorities.

Senator CARDIN. Senator McCain.

Senator MCCAIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank all of our Ambassadors for their service and their continued service.

I guess, Ambassador Goldberg, you and I talked in my office about the many priorities and importance of our relationship with the Philippines. Given the involvement I have had in the military and national security issues, you and I talked about the importance of very sensitive but maybe important negotiations concerning joint operations with the Philippine military which they seem much more inclined to engage in given the tensions in the South China Sea. I am interested in your views on that aspect of our relationship.

Ambassador GOLDBERG. Thank you, Senator McCain.

As we discussed the other day, we are negotiating a framework agreement that will lead to added rotational presence at facilities in the Philippines. It is an integral part of our efforts to help the Philippines as it modernizes its military, undertakes new missions, including maritime security, maritime domain awareness, both of

which are important in the South China Sea context, but also enduring missions against counterterrorism where we have been working with the Philippine Army for some time and also in the traditional civil and humanitarian disaster relief, which unfortunately afflicts the Philippines all too often because of its geographic location and the typhoons and other events that occur there. So all of those things combined have, I think, led to a real mutual interest in establishing this framework agreement and moving forward in restarting some of our military relationship but also adding to the Filipinos' capacity to build and improve their military structure.

Senator MCCAIN. Their military structure is extremely limited maritime-wise and surveillance-wise.

Ambassador GOLDBERG. That is true. And I think a part of the improvements that are being looked at—we have provided a couple of Coast Guard cutters recently that will add to the maritime security. We have a foreign military fund program and the IMET program. We have the joint special operations task force still active in training. So it is a program that will help them as they are improving their capacity in many areas. And as I mentioned, maritime security and domain awareness are very important parts of that relationship.

Senator MCCAIN. Thank you.

Ambassador Blake, since my Republican colleagues are not present, I think it is OK to mention your blood relative is also a Member of the United States Senate from—

Senator CARDIN. We have gone through that. It is on the record. So we are going to have a problem. [Laughter.]

Senator MCCAIN. I think we have a problem, Ambassador Blake.

Why is it, Ambassador Blake, you think that the largest Muslim country in the world—we do not have the same kind of problems with jihadism and extremism and acts of terror? I know that Bali was a disaster. I do not mean to diminish that. But here we have, again, the largest Muslim population in the world, and yet it seems to be progressing from the days of an absolute dictator to a fairly well functioning democracy with exception of there are still human rights problems. But how do you account for that?

Ambassador BLAKE. Thanks for that important question, Senator.

I would say a couple of things.

First, unlike some of the countries in the Middle East and even in the region that I currently work in, the government has really made an effort to develop responsive governance. There has been a real democratic transformation that is taking place there over the last 15 years. A very active civil society has developed. And I think very, very importantly, there has been a systematic effort to try to reduce poverty in Indonesia and sort of, if you will, address a lot of the unemployment and other issues that you find in, let us say, Cairo or in Tunisia or in some of these other places where I have served that have given rise to extremists.

There is also a tradition of tolerance and diversity in Indonesia that you do not find in other countries. So I think all of these have helped to, in a way, reduce the supply side.

But then there has also been a quite systematic effort on their part, since the terrible Bali bombings that took place in 2002, to professionalize their armed forces, to professionalize their security forces, their counterterrorism forces to go after the bad guys.

Senator MCCAIN. How much are we helping with that?

Ambassador BLAKE. We are helping a lot with that. Again, once we lifted sanctions in 2005, we have been able to expand our military-to-military cooperation.

But there is a lot of law enforcement cooperation that is going on as well to increase their police capacity, for example, and I think that has been helpful in, frankly, arresting or killing the leadership of many of the foreign terrorist organizations that operate. There are two U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations there, and they have had quite a lot of success in, again, arresting or otherwise getting rid of the leadership.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, I think you would have done a great job, Ambassador. [Laughter.]

Ambassador Hyatt, I happen to be one who has visited Palau. I am not sure how many of us have. And one of the more impactful places I visited is the island of Peleliu, a tiny island, where we lost several thousand marines over a very extended period of time in what was believed to be a very easy operation and turned out to be an incredible blood-letting in a very small place.

What are we doing in Palau to sort of encourage people to visit and to memorialize and to make sure that we do not forget the incredible sacrifice that was made? And does the Government of Palau appreciate that aspect of our relationship?

Ms. HYATT. Thank you, Senator.

Yes, I think there is some appreciation, but I think you are right to point out that there is more that could be done. We do have a shared history, and I think that it can be highlighted. And I think that that would not only contribute to better understanding of Palau and its role in our strategic history and our strategic interests. I also think it would contribute to Palau's economy by bringing people back to that location to highlight the history and our shared relationship. So I think there is great potential for doing what you suggest.

Senator MCCAIN. You know, in recent years, the Japanese have come back in a very significant effort to identify and memorialize the Japanese—thousands—I have forgotten now the number of how many thousand died, but none of them surrendered.

Well, I hope that we can not only symbolize the sacrifice made by both sides but a way to maybe memorialize that it really was a field not well chosen, to say the least.

Anyway, I look forward to visiting again. And I was surprised. There is a human trafficking problem?

Ms. HYATT. I think that there is a growing awareness of a problem. I think that there is a deep desire—

Senator MCCAIN. Within Palau itself?

Ms. HYATT. As a destination and also as a country that is providing. And I think there is not as much awareness about that end of it, but I believe that there is growing awareness of the problem and there is definitely a desire among the legal authorities to do something about it.

Senator MCCAIN. Are these people exported from Palau?

Ms. HYATT. I believe there are some, although that is a matter of dispute at this point.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, also I think you pointed out the enormous number of young men and women from Palau that are serving in the military is quite remarkable.

Ms. Stanton, finally I was struck by in your statement that half the population lives below the poverty line of 88 cents per day. I did not know that was their poverty line to start with. I thought it was a point of desperation. But what is the prospect? What are the prospects of improving that? I mean, I do not think you get democracy in half the population living below 88 cents a day.

Ms. STANTON. Thank you, Senator McCain.

Absolutely that is the biggest problem that Timor-Leste faces today. They have some resources, as I mentioned. They have some resources from oil. They really are most challenged by the lack of capacity to manage what resources they have, a very poor educational infrastructure, poor health, all of the challenges that come with that level of poverty.

Senator MCCAIN. And a rather tumultuous government situation.

Ms. STANTON. Well, they are working very hard on maintaining a democratic and well-managed government, but they just do not have enough capacity to do all the things they need to do.

Senator MCCAIN. Is it ripe for another revolt?

Ms. STANTON. We work very hard with our assistance and our assistance partners, and the government is working very hard to the best of their ability to meet the needs of their people, to develop alternatives and to develop opportunities, education, jobs, all of those things that are, of course, crucial to peace and stability, as you say. So that is the most important objective for them and for us, I think, in Timor-Leste.

Senator MCCAIN. Well, I think you have your work cut out for you, and thank you for your willingness to serve. I think it is incredibly challenging. I remember for a period of time there was a lot of publicity as we argued for their independence, and then I think it is possible we could have just spent our attention and effort elsewhere. Would you agree with that?

Ms. STANTON. You think it is possible that we could have spent our—

Senator MCCAIN. That we did.

Ms. STANTON. That we did?

We have been providing assistance and working with our partners. The Government of Australia is very active there. Indonesia has been supportive in the past 10 years, and there is a well coordinated effort in Timor-Leste to work with the government there. They seem to be a very admirable partner in this effort to sort of develop good governance, a good social order. They are very, very challenged and we certainly need to continue our efforts in supporting them.

Senator MCCAIN. And I wish you every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you, Senator McCain.

I want to ask a couple more questions, but let me talk a little bit about the maritime security issue for one moment. We have a

very clear policy. We want the countries to resolve them peacefully through direct negotiations. We know this is a very difficult subject in the South China Sea. We know that both the Philippines and Indonesia are directly engaged. There are some episodes that are currently pending.

I would like to get a better sense as to how you see the United States or the international community or international organizations or regional organizations playing a role here. It is one thing to have a policy. It is another thing to promote a code of conduct. But at the end of the day, there has got to be some way to resolve these matters. It may be to share resources. It may be to deal with ways in which both sides could come out saving face. There are a lot of different ways of handling it. But when you have an open issue, it has to somehow be resolved.

So how do you see the United States playing a constructive role, and how would a code of conduct deal with these types of disputes? I welcome your thoughts on this.

Ambassador GOLDBERG. I can start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The code of conduct is really rules of the road. They are not going to settle the underlying disputes and territorial disputes. But it still is very important.

We, I think, are engaged in two different ways in trying to help that code of conduct along, one of which is working with all the parties and diplomatically, bilaterally, multilaterally to encourage that as one of the solutions to at least de-conflict and to set out rules.

One other aspect of that—and when I mentioned multilateral—is that there are claims within the South China Sea that do not just affect one country and China. There are also competing claims. But what will be effective I think is if the countries of the region through ASEAN—and they are, I think, more and more convinced that this is the way forward so that there is a consensus there to bring the Chinese into the situation.

So I think the most important in terms of recent events is to prevent any idea that there is a kind of coercion taking place. We have a deep interest in the peaceful resolution, as you mentioned earlier, in a sea area that so much of the world's trade goes through. And so we are involved in the principles and in pushing the legal basis for this. We need to continue to do that diplomatically both bilaterally with the Chinese, with other countries in ASEAN, but also to encourage ASEAN through our multilateral engagement. As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have become much more engaged in the Asian diplomatic and security architecture as we rebalance to Asia—and that is part of the President's trip—so that they too take this on and come together because that is one of the ways that a code of conduct can be reached.

And, of course, there is also the Law of the Sea Convention, which is the mechanism that the Philippines has used to start an arbitral process, again not to settle underlying claims but to make sure that some of the activities that are taking place are dealt with.

Senator CARDIN. But is that not being challenged by the China?

Ambassador GOLDBERG. It is. It certainly is and that is why it is a diplomatic matter between all of us and why we are pushing

these kinds of solutions because the alternative, as you would I think conclude, is not one that we would encourage where confrontation and coercion takes that place.

Another effort I mentioned earlier is in building up capacity to do maritime security, maritime domain awareness to prevent accidents from happening. These are all kind of mutually reinforcing these efforts.

This is not a new issue, obviously. It is one that has gone on for some time. And in some ways we have to find ways to manage while we await the time when the underlying issues can be settled.

Ambassador BLAKE. Let me just build on what Ambassador Goldberg said, which is to just elaborate a little bit on the ASEAN piece of it, which is obviously that ASEAN we see as the central regional organization in Asia both for promoting regional integration but also regional security. And the President will be attending the ASEAN summit in a few weeks.

And I just want to note that Indonesia and particularly Foreign Minister Natalegawa has been very active in trying to promote an ASEAN dialogue with China on a code of conduct and to persuade China to engage on a regular basis and I think with some progress. I mean, obviously, there is still a long way to go. So I think Indonesia has been quite an important leader in these efforts.

Senator CARDIN. I guess my followup question to that is I think it is very important the President has been very actively engaged in the regional organizations, including ASEAN. The question will be how we can advance these causes in a constructive way. I think, Ambassador Goldberg, your point about it is going to take diplomatic skills, so I think our embassies can play a very constructive role. But it is challenging when you have a way of dealing with it and one country says no, we are not going to do it. It does really stretch our patience.

So this issue perhaps is the most concerning on the security front. It is critically important for commerce, and it could explode, even among our friends, causing problems, let alone countries that we have disagreements with. So we want you to give this the highest priority in trying to resolve.

On Palau, I have one more question, Ms. Hyatt, and that deals with resource management. Palau is known as having some of the richest fishing territories in the world. There is a concern of over-fishing. There is a concern of resource management. How do you see the United States playing a constructive role in dealing with those environmental issues?

Ms. HYATT. Thank you for that question, Mr. Chairman.

The environmental issues are very important to the Government of Palau and the people of Palau, as they are to the United States. They have been a good partner with us in terms of preserving their natural resources, and if confirmed, I would hope to assist them in those efforts. I think that their natural resources are one of their greatest assets in terms of promoting tourism and other economic opportunities within the country.

And I think issues related to fishing I know are becoming an issue that is more controversial. And I would look forward to working with the Government of Palau, if confirmed, on preserving fish-

ing rights for our fishing fleets and to ensure that U.S. fishing concerns are not detrimentally affected.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you for that.

I was not aware until Senator McCain mentioned the economics of Timor-Leste. It is hard to have a sustainable democracy with that type of economic circumstance. So I just want to underscore the point that Senator McCain made, and that is, Ms. Stanton, we look forward to your thoughts as to how the United States, how the Congress of the United States can assist in helping develop a stronger economic future for the people of Timor-Leste so that we can have a more stable ally and friend. We recognize economic development is one of the key points. We want respect for human rights because that is not only our values, but it is also important for a stable country. It is also true of economic progress. So we welcome your observations as to how we can advance the economic prosperity for the people in the country because it is right and because also we would have a more stable ally.

Ms. STANTON. Thank you, Senator Cardin. I would very much welcome the support of the committee in our efforts in Timor-Leste.

The President of Timor-Leste gave a speech this morning at the United Nations, and the one quote that I remember from looking through it very quickly this morning was he said that there is no peace without development and no development without peace. So they are inextricably intertwined and it is important to provide the assistance that we do provide to Timor-Leste and to continue that assistance. Our AID mission is very targeted toward economic development, good governance, all of those health issues, education, all of those sort of fundamental issues that support development and economic prosperity. So they really are not going to make progress without this support and I very much welcome the committee's support and will look forward to working further on that, should I be confirmed. Thank you.

Senator CARDIN. For each of you, I would ask on behalf of the committee that if requests are made for information or cooperation from this committee or any member of this committee or, for that matter, any Member of the United States Senate or any of our committees, that you will promptly respond to those requests. For the record, I see all four of you nodding your head in the affirmative. We will take that as a yes.

The committee record will remain open for 24 hours. So you may be receiving questions from members of the committee. We would ask that you get those answers back as quickly as possible because in at least one case, we are going to try to make sure you are there for the President's visit. We would like to be able to move these nominations through the process as quickly as we can. So your cooperation in responding to the specific information that may be asked by members of the committee in regards to the confirmation hearings will be deeply appreciated.

I have one more question for you, Mr. Blake, that was on the tip of my tongue, and that is the environmental conservation one in regards to the goals of the United States-Indonesia relationship and how do you assess the effectiveness of U.S. assistance in the environmental realm? In what areas do you feel Indonesia needs the most help?

Ambassador BLAKE. Well, that is a very, very important question.

I would say the most important priority right now is helping Indonesia to address its greenhouse gas emissions. Indonesia is the fifth-largest emitter of such gases in the world because of the very extensive forest and peatland destruction that has occurred over the last four decades. So it is very important task now to help this important partner to reverse that trend.

We have a number of different programs that are underway now, first through the Millennium Challenge Corporation program that I mentioned. Almost half of that \$600 million is for the so-called Green Prosperity program, which is primarily targeting low carbon development and helping both sustainable forest management but also to help the country to develop more clean energy and renewable energy.

We are also working through the Forest Service and through USAID. We have several debt-for-nature swaps under the Forest Conservation Act.

We are also doing a number of other things through USAID, again to help promote better management of these forests. We have a huge program to help support the management of literally millions of hectares of tropical forest and peatland to again make sure that there are sustainable forest practices and that there is reforestation projects that will help to address this critical program.

So this is going to be one of my very highest priorities as Ambassador, if confirmed.

Senator CARDIN. Well, thank you for that. I can assure that if there is a CODEL Whitehouse, that that Senator will be questioning you very deeply on this issue.

Ambassador BLAKE. Yes.

Senator CARDIN. Senator Whitehouse has taken a very strong interest on these issues.

And it does present a challenge on the deforestation and on the other management issues as it relates to greenhouse gas missions and environmental management. And the Obama administration is taking a strong leadership not just in the United States but internationally. Indonesia is a country of challenge. A lot of it is understandable but it is one in which we want to have a workable strategy to help in regards to our global efforts to deal with these issues. So we welcome your observations and thoughts as we move forward on that.

Ambassador BLAKE. Thank you.

Senator CARDIN. And with that, let me thank again our nominees and their families. Mr. Blake, your children were very patient throughout this process. I do not know whether grandchildren, which are about the same age, would have survived. But anyway, thank you all very much.

And with that, the committee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:55 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]