

**STATEMENT OF PATRICK S. MOON  
AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
[July 22, 2010]**

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am honored by the confidence placed in me by the President and Secretary Clinton. If confirmed by the Senate, I will do my utmost to validate the Senate's trust in me and will look forward to a close relationship with this Committee and with all your colleagues in Congress on how to advance U.S. interests and goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am very pleased to be here with my wife Danuta Moon. She is a great source of support and strength for me, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that fact and to thank her for what she has done. Although my children Marisa, Natalie and Anya could not be here today, they are a source of joy and inspiration to me and Danuta.

Madam Chairwoman, throughout my career at the State Department, I have had numerous opportunities to further the values that the citizens of our great country hold dear. Much of my career has focused on or been connected to the Balkans. I believe my experiences are relevant to the responsibilities I seek to assume in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if confirmed by the Senate. I served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at our Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia, and during my three

assignments working on NATO issues I was often focusing on developments in the Balkans, in particular, in Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo. I helped to support U.S. leadership in the region to promote peace, stability, democracy and respect for human rights.

Since the end of the war and the signing of the Dayton Accords nearly fifteen years ago, the United States has sought to strengthen democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, foster good governance, increase respect for human rights, and promote economic prosperity. The U.S. is committed to ensuring that a stable, sovereign, and peaceful Bosnia is set irreversibly on a course toward membership in NATO and the European Union. Our European partners agree with us, and we are working closely with them to help Bosnia and Herzegovina make progress on needed reforms. At the same time, we have a unique bilateral relationship through our role as the host of the Dayton Accords, strengthened by those citizens of the United States who trace their roots to Bosnia and Herzegovina. If confirmed, I will work to foster and develop this partnership.

In order to make the aspirations of the Bosnian people a reality, however, much work remains to be done. The pledges made by Bosnian political leaders regarding membership in NATO and the European Union must be translated into action. Too often progress has been stifled by nationalist rhetoric and an absence of political will. As a consequence, key priorities have not been addressed. Urgent

action on constitutional reforms is necessary in order to make progress toward EU membership. Defense reforms, including the registration of property for use by the Ministry of Defense, are urgently needed in order for Bosnia and Herzegovina to advance its candidacy for NATO membership. More broadly, satisfying the conditions specified by the Peace Implementation Council for transition of the Office of the High Representative to a strong European Union presence will help clear a path to EU membership.

While much remains to be done, we should not lose sight of the progress achieved through fifteen years of peace. Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for the first time in 2010. Bosnian troops have served in Iraq and are deployed to Afghanistan. With U.S. assistance, Bosnia has committed to destroy its stocks of surplus weapons and unstable munitions. Bosnia remains a steadfast friend and partner, whether at the UN or in the fight against human trafficking.

With elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina approaching in October, U.S. diplomats continue to work closely with government officials, political parties, religious and cultural leaders, civil society, and members of the public to promote the Euro-Atlantic reform agenda and foster a constructive, issues-based debate during the upcoming campaign. With the strong support of Congress, U.S.

assistance continues to build government capacity; protect human rights; foster economic development, and promote fiscal responsibility.

It is impossible to speak of Bosnia and Herzegovina without recalling the horrific conflict there. Just days ago, Bosnia and Herzegovina commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica. Croatian and Serbian leaders attended, and Ambassador English delivered a statement on behalf of President Obama and the American people. Although Radovan Karadzic, an architect of the Srebrenica genocide, is on trial in The Hague, Ratko Mladic is still at large. We bear a fundamental responsibility to ensure that the perpetrators of war crimes are brought to justice as we pay respect to both the victims and survivors. The families of the victims can never forget their loss. We must honor their sacrifices by working with all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to build a brighter future. If confirmed in this position, I will continue that crucial effort.

Madam Chairwoman, I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before this Committee today. I look forward to answering your questions.

Thank you.