

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for Hearing on the
Nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State
January 18, 2005

The Committee on Foreign Relations meets today to consider the nomination of Dr. Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Rice to the Committee. As a result of her distinguished service as National Security Advisor to President Bush and her earlier assignments on the NSC, she is well known to many members of this Committee. We admire her accomplishments, and we are particularly thankful for the cooperation that she has provided to this Committee.

The enormously complex job before Dr. Rice will require all of her talents and experience. American credibility in the world, progress in the war on terrorism, and our relationships with our allies will be greatly affected by the Secretary of State's actions and the effectiveness of the State Department in the coming years. Dr. Rice is highly qualified to meet these challenges. We recognize the deep personal commitment necessary to undertake this difficult assignment, and we are grateful that a leader of her stature is willing to step forward.

The Secretary of State serves as the President's top foreign policy advisor, as our nation's most visible emissary to the rest of the world, and as manager of one of the most important Departments in our government. Any one of these jobs would be a challenge for even the most talented public servant. But the Secretary of State, at this critical time in our history, must excel at all three roles.

During the past three years, we have seen terrorists kill thousands of people in this country and destroy the World Trade Center and a part of the Pentagon. We have seen United States military personnel engaged in two difficult and costly wars. We have seen the expansion of a nihilistic form of terrorism that is only loosely attached to political objectives, and is, therefore, very difficult to deter. We have seen frequent expressions of virulent anti-Americanism in many parts of the Islamic world. We have seen our alliances, our international standing, and our budget strained by the hard choices that we have had to make in response to terrorism.

In this context, many diplomatic tasks must be approached with urgency. In particular, our success in Iraq is critical. The election scheduled for January 30 must go forward, and the United States must work closely with Iraqi authorities to achieve the fairest and most complete outcome possible. At the same time, we must understand that those forces that want to keep Iraq in chaos will commit violence and intimidation. Both Iraqis and the Coalition will have to be resilient and flexible in the election's aftermath.

The Bush Administration and the State Department also must devote themselves to achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict; to coming to grips with the nuclear proliferation problems in Iran and North Korea; to continuing urgent humanitarian efforts in Sudan, the Indian Ocean region, and elsewhere; to maintaining our commitment to the global fight against AIDS and other infectious diseases; to advancing democracy in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and elsewhere; to repairing alliances with longstanding friends in Europe; to reinvigorating our economic and security relationships in our own hemisphere; and to engaging with rapidly changing national powers, especially China, India, and Russia.

Even though this list of diplomatic priorities is daunting, it is not exhaustive and it does not anticipate unforeseeable events. Just weeks ago, none of us could have predicted that an earthquake and tsunami would change the face of the Indian Ocean region. Our efforts must include the expansion of our foreign policy capabilities so that we are better prepared for crises that cannot be averted and better able to prevent those that can be. I would like to outline a handful of initiatives brought forward by this Committee on which I would ask for your assistance.

First, the Committee intends to report out a Foreign Affairs Authorization Bill no later than March. With the support of the Senate leadership, I am confident that the obstacles to Senate passage that we have encountered in the past will be overcome. It is crucial that the executive branch, especially the State Department, work together with our Committee on this legislation. Not only does it authorize funding for the Department and foreign affairs

programs, it also contains personnel and other authorities important for the Department to carry on its work effectively and efficiently. We will be calling on you for advice and to exercise your considerable persuasive power at key moments as the legislation works its way through Congress.

Second, the Bush Administration must continue its efforts to safeguard and destroy vulnerable stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. To this end, I plan to reintroduce legislation designed to eliminate impediments to the Nunn-Lugar program. My bill would drop conditions on weapons dismantlement work that in the past have slowed or threatened to slow the urgent task of eliminating nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. Furthermore, the legislation removes the \$50 million cap on the President's ability to utilize Nunn-Lugar funds outside the former Soviet Union. I will also reintroduce the "Conventional Arms Threat Reduction Act," designed to improve the State Department's efforts to combat the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons, including MANPADS. The bill would unify program planning, coordination, and implementation of a global strategy into one office at State.

Third, we must ensure that the State Department has adequate resources to do the difficult job it faces. Under the leadership of President Bush, the Administration has requested major funding increases for the State Department and U.S. foreign policy objectives. You have argued successfully for the creation of new foreign policy tools, including the Millennium Challenge Account, the Global AIDS Initiative, and the new Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization. The State Department's Diplomatic Readiness Initiative launched by Secretary Powell has made great progress in addressing personnel shortfalls in the Foreign Service. In addition, the State Department has continued an efficient program to upgrade security at U.S. missions around the world. Even though Congress has failed to provide all the funds requested by President to strengthen the State Department and U.S. foreign policy capabilities, this Committee is enthusiastic about the progress that you have made so far. We want to work with you to achieve the President's vision of reinvigorated diplomatic capabilities.

Finally, I would like to highlight a crucial need that has been identified by members of this Committee. Our country must improve its capacity to stabilize failing or war-torn nations and to assist in their reconstruction. If we are to deny sanctuaries to terrorists -- a goal identified by the 9/11 Commission as a top priority -- we must improve planning and organization for post-conflict reconstruction operations. Last year, the Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed the Stabilization and Reconstruction Civilian Management Act of 2004. I appreciate the State Department's letter endorsing the purposes of S. 2127 and ask that the letter be submitted in the record. In addition, a study done by the Defense Science Board endorses the legislation.

The State Department has now established an Office for Reconstruction and Stabilization as called for in the legislation. The new office, headed by Carlos Pascual, is doing a government-wide inventory of the civilian assets that might be available for stabilization and reconstruction tasks. It is also pursuing the idea proposed in S. 2127 of a Readiness Reserve to enable rapid mobilization of post-conflict stabilization personnel.

In addition, I hope that the office will develop the concept of a 250-person active duty Response Readiness Corps. In Army terms, that is less than a small battalion of well-trained people -- a modest but vigorous force-multiplier that would greatly improve our nation's stabilization capacity. This Corps would be composed of State Department and USAID employees who have the experience and technical skills to manage stabilization and reconstruction tasks in a hostile environment.

I consider this new office to be one of the most important long-term defenses that the State Department can mount against future acts of terrorism. I would urge the State Department to embrace the concept of a well-funded civilian stabilization and reconstruction capability.

Dr. Rice, we welcome you to the Committee on this historic occasion. We look forward to a dialogue that will illuminate the direction of U.S. foreign policy for members of this Committee and for the American people.

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