

Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Hearing with Secretary Powell
February 12, 2004
Opening Statement
Chairman Richard Lugar

Today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is pleased to welcome Secretary of State Colin Powell. Mr. Secretary, we are eager to hear your views on the status of our alliances, the Bush Administration's plans for making further progress in Iraq and Afghanistan, the status of negotiations pertaining to the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula, and your assessments of the State Department's budget.

During the last year, American foreign policy has achieved an extensive list of accomplishments, some of which have gone unnoticed. The President put forward bold plans to fight the global spread of AIDS and to establish the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which will encourage political and economic progress in developing nations that embrace positive reforms. Congress worked closely with the White House and the State Department on these initiatives, and passed legislation that would implement them. Our commitment of substantial funds to the Liberian crisis and to the Middle East Partnership Initiative similarly have demonstrated that the United States intends to provide leadership in fighting the poverty and disorder that so often are at the root of conflict.

The United States continues to make progress in securing international assistance for counter-terrorism efforts around the world. In particular, great strides were made during 2003 to solidify cooperation from Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states. Many nations in Europe, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia have continued to be good allies in the war on terror. In our own hemisphere, the Colombian government, with U.S. support, has made measurable progress in increasing personal security for its people. Murders and kidnappings were down significantly in 2003, and Colombians are traveling in parts of the country that, until recently, were thought to be too dangerous.

In Russia, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and its associated programs continue to safeguard and destroy the arsenal of weapons of mass destruction built by the former Soviet Union. Through the G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction, we have secured \$10 billion in commitments for this endeavor from our allies. Congress passed legislation that allows the Nunn-Lugar program to be used outside the states of the former Soviet Union, and with President Bush's strong encouragement, chemical weapons destruction at Shchuchye in Russia has been accelerated. We must ensure that the funding and momentum of the Nunn-Lugar program is not encumbered by bureaucratic obstacles or undercut by political disagreements.

The United States also has moved forward in the area of arms control negotiations. Last year, at the request of the President, the Senate ratified the Moscow Treaty governing the

strategic nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States. In coming weeks, the Foreign Relations Committee intends to report the resolution of ratification of the IAEA Additional Protocol to the Senate. This Protocol will strengthen the international community's ability to detect illegal weapons programs. Yesterday, President Bush called for immediate ratification of the Additional Protocol.

Libya's decision to open its weapons of mass destruction programs to international inspection and its acceptance of responsibility for Pan Am 103 constitute a remarkable success for U.S. foreign policy resulting from close coordination with allies, firm diplomacy, and the demonstrations of our resolve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

State Department diplomacy played an important role in the growing opportunity for rapprochement between India and Pakistan. If this initiative can produce a more stable and prosperous subcontinent, our own security will be immeasurably improved. American diplomacy also contributed to movement toward a peace agreement in Sudan, the ratification of a Constitution in Afghanistan, and the conclusion of a breakthrough tax treaty with Japan, which will be a boost to any American company doing business in that country.

During the last year, even as our relationships with some of our NATO allies were strained by the war in Iraq, the Senate ratified the treaty admitting seven Eastern European nations to NATO. The Administration also secured agreement for a central NATO role in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. In my view, NATO must build on these successes by defining a broader mission for itself in maintaining stability in the greater Middle East. This should include an expanded NATO presence in Afghanistan outside Kabul and a role in Iraq stabilization. Progress in these areas would help heal the rifts created by disagreements over the use of force in Iraq.

Our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, though difficult, have produced important successes. The people of those two countries are better off now than they were under Saddam Hussein and the Taliban. Schools are operating, police forces and national armies are being trained, free media is being established, and women are participating in society in ways that they have not done before.

However, our experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrate that we must be better prepared to undertake post-conflict missions. To this end the Foreign Relations Committee has organized a Policy Advisory Group that is attempting to come to grips with how the State Department and our government as a whole should organize and prepare itself to deal with complex emergencies. Some of the best national security minds in Washington have participated in these discussions, including Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman. I anticipate that the Committee will put forward a legislative proposal in the coming weeks.

Public diplomacy is another area where deficiencies must be corrected if our policies are to succeed in the Middle East and elsewhere. I was heartened by the appointment of Margaret Tutwiler as Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy. She has worked well with our

Committee and is committed, as you are Mr. Secretary, to boosting the effectiveness and frequency of our communications with foreign populations. I believe this will require a sea change in the orientation of the State Department, particularly as it relates to training, language expertise, and avenues of professional advancement.

Regionally, more attention must be paid to Latin America. Venezuela, Bolivia, and Haiti face severe challenges to their constitutional governments and Mexico's importance to our prosperity and security continues to be misunderstood and undervalued by policymakers in both the executive and legislative branches. President Bush's immigration proposal is an excellent starting point, but the U.S.-Mexican bilateral relationship must be elevated to a higher priority.

With the establishment of the Global AIDS Initiative and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, this Administration has done more to improve our engagement with Africa than any administration in recent memory. I believe, however, that our policies will not be fully successful in Africa until we improve our economic engagement with the continent. To this end, I am hopeful for strong Administration support of the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which I have introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Secretary, this partial list of foreign policy successes and priorities demonstrates how expansive the global challenges are for the United States. We want to hear from you about the needs of your Department in this era when it occupies the front lines in the war on terrorism.

I want to compliment you on your efforts to expand funding for the State Department and foreign assistance programs. You have brought a strategic vision to budgetary questions involving the Department, and this Committee could not ask for a better partner in explaining the importance of our international affairs budget to the American people.

The progress we have made in the last three years has begun to reverse the damaging slide in diplomatic funding that occurred during the 1990s. Most Americans recognize the importance of investments in national security. But often our national conception of foreign affairs focuses too heavily on the crisis of the moment and fails to appreciate the painstaking work that occurs every day in the State Department and other agencies. To win the war against terrorism, the United States must assign U.S. economic and diplomatic capabilities the same strategic priority that we assign to military capabilities.

We must continue our investments in diplomats, embassy security, foreign assistance and other tools of foreign policy. If a greater commitment of resources can prevent the bombing of one of our embassies, secure alliance participation in expensive peacekeeping efforts, or improve detection of terrorists seeking visas, the investment will have yielded dividends far beyond its cost.

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