

**US SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN  
FOR PHILIP GORDON, NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS &  
FOR ROSE GOTTEMOELLER TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE**

**MARCH 26, 2009**

Good afternoon.

Today, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee considers the nominations of Dr. Philip Gordon to be Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs and Rose Gottemoeller to be Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance. These are both extremely vital posts, and I believe that President Obama has made two excellent nominations. We welcome the two of you and your families and look forward to hearing from you this afternoon.

As Assistant Secretary of State, Dr. Gordon would be at the forefront of developing our policies toward Europe and Eurasia, a region which spans from the Atlantic to the Pacific and which includes some of our most complicated relationships and our most important allies. If confirmed, his will be a challenging task, but Dr. Gordon will be well-equipped to manage these relationships.

Over the last decade, Dr. Gordon has served as the Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution and has developed a deep understanding and expertise on European security and NATO affairs. He was the founding Director of the Brookings Center on the United States and Europe and previously served at the National Security Council as Director for European Affairs. Should he be confirmed, Dr. Gordon will need to effectively utilize all his experiences and expertise because the difficulties he will face are immense.

Undoubtedly, America's relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will be high on Dr. Gordon's agenda. The effort in Afghanistan will be a pressing and defining test for NATO in the short term. In the longer term, the U.S. must work closely with our European partners to find consensus on some serious questions about NATO's mission, strategy, and objectives in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century world.

Dr. Gordon will also be responsible for managing our relations with Turkey, a valuable NATO ally with a predominantly Muslim population in a dangerous and geopolitically strategic location. How we define our relationship with Turkey over the next decade will have significant repercussions for our long-term interests abroad.

Dr. Gordon, the Committee looks forward to hearing your ideas on how we can continue to deepen and expand these critical relationships.

Perhaps the most complex challenge that both of our nominees will face is the relationship between the United States and Russia. America does share a broad range of mutual interests with Russia, however, we must pursue these efforts with both eyes wide open. We have significant differences with Russia, which we will discuss today. But despite these differences, the United States and Russia should move forward on areas of mutual interest – perhaps the most urgent and important of which is the negotiation on a legally binding successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which is set to expire on December 5<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Our second nominee, Rose Gottemoeller, will be the point person in taking on this challenge.

With the two largest nuclear arsenals in the world, the U.S. and Russia have a responsibility to lead on arms reduction efforts. These upcoming negotiations and the resultant treaty will set the tone for the next generation of leaders with respect to arms reductions, and I am encouraged that this administration has indicated it will pursue an aggressive and ambitious agenda in this regard.

As Assistant Secretary for Verification and Compliance, Ms. Gottemoeller would be responsible for ensuring that appropriate verification requirements are fully considered and integrated throughout all of our arms control and nonproliferation agreements.

Ms. Gottemoeller is supremely qualified to take on this important post. She carries a wide breadth of knowledge on nuclear security and defense issues and has a long, distinguished career in government and beyond. We will hear from Senator Lugar today on Ms. Gottemoeller's impressive background.

In addition, having lived in Moscow over the last several years, Ms. Gottemoeller will bring an in-depth understanding of the Russian perspective in leading post-START negotiations. These experiences will serve her well during this complex negotiation process, and I am confident that she will be a great representative for the U.S. in these discussions.

The challenges before us are daunting. There will be no quick fixes on any of these critical issues. Solutions will require hard work, unrelenting and active engagement, a meaningful and sustained partnership with Congress, and the best diplomats and personnel our country has to offer.

I believe President Obama has chosen two exceptional and well-qualified public servants. I congratulate each of you on your nominations and thank you for taking on these difficult yet critical posts. I hope the Committee and the full Senate will act quickly and positively on your nominations.

Thank you.