

**Jeffrey J. Grieco**  
**Nominee**  
**for**  
**USAID Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs**  
**before the**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**February 7, 2008**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Hagel, and other Senators of the Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

On January 22, 2008 President Bush nominated me for the position of Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development. I am deeply honored by his confidence in me and am most appreciative of the support that has been given me during the nomination process.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my family for their support. Without their love and encouragement, I would not be here. With your permission Mr. Chairman, I would like to recognize my wife of fifteen years, Suzie, and our four great children: Grant, Alexandra, Joseph and Danielle. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to my parents, Joseph and Theresa Grieco of Orchard Park, New York, and my brother David Grieco whose wisdom, love and guidance has helped me so much over the years.

I am a long time student of international affairs, having received degrees from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. In addition, I studied at the American University in Paris and also a short time at Oxford University, Templeton College. I knew early on that I wanted a career in international affairs.

Indeed, I have been very fortunate to have had many experienced and well known mentors and professors over the years including: Dr. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Dr. Gaston Sigur, Dr. Alan Goodman and former USAID Deputy Administrator, Dr. Carol Lancaster.

I joined the Administration following September 11, 2001 and I have taken this opportunity to serve my country with utmost seriousness and respect for those who serve. It has been exhilarating and highly educational, not the least because of what I have learned from my responsibilities in dealing with the Congress and public on behalf of USAID.

Throughout my service as the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs in the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA), and during the past nine months as the Acting Assistant Administrator, I have been struck by the broad political consensus for America's international development and foreign assistance activities and in particular, about the mission of USAID.

In his National Security Strategy of 2002, the President stated that "including the world's poor in an expanding circle of development – and opportunity – is one of the top priorities of U.S. international policy." Since then, the Administration has nearly tripled official development assistance (ODA) worldwide, doubled assistance to Latin America and nearly quadrupled assistance to Africa. Secretary Rice has reaffirmed his mandate to elevate development. It now plays a key role in our national security architecture as part of the three "D's" - defense, diplomacy, and development.- and it is vital to her vision of "transformational diplomacy."

The humanitarian and development mission of the United States has been and will continue to be a moral imperative of this country. Post 9-11, it is also a national security imperative and among the most effective means by which this nation brings about transformational change in the world through its "soft power."

If confirmed as USAID Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, I will hold a position that is central to the ongoing conversation between the Executive and Legislative Branches essential to the effective formulation of U.S. foreign and national security policy.

If confirmed for this position, I see my responsibilities as helping to "explain" USAID missions, goals and programs to the Congress and to the American people and foreign audiences as well as to ensure a complete and timely flow of information between the Congress and the Agency. I intend to ensure that you are fully informed in a timely and measurable fashion

about all USAID matters that merit your attention, and that your advice, concerns and questions are immediately conveyed to the Agency's senior management including the Administrator of USAID, Henrietta Holsman Fore and Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder.

In my professional career prior to joining the Administration, I have had substantial experience in international and public affairs, working in major public affairs firms and managing major international accounts. This has equipped me to participate in and help lead the public diplomacy and outreach efforts of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

I am very proud of our LPA team for receiving three favorable audits by the Government Accounting Office (GAO), recognizing our innovative communications techniques and competencies. More specifically these reports highlighted USAID's overseas public diplomacy activities and the first coordinated use of targeted paid media campaigns combining tailored message targeting and pre-and post-campaign audience impact measurements. We have also received top honors from the League of American Communications Professionals for our new Development Outreach and Communications Initiative (DOC), now being implemented in more than 70 USAID Missions abroad.

The combination of broad public affairs experience and, during my past half dozen years service in the U.S. Agency for International Development, legislative experience on U.S. foreign assistance has prepared me for the added responsibilities I would assume as Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.

Should the Senate choose to confirm me for this position, it would be an honor to serve side by side with the 8,000 dedicated USAID employees who at great risk and personal sacrifice answer the development challenges around the world. Just this past month, I helped to supervise the return of the remains of a USAID Foreign Service Officer, John Granville, who was murdered in Khartoum, Sudan on New Years Day. John was from the town that I was born and raised, Buffalo, New York and the sense of outpouring from Buffalonians for the service that John and USAID provide the poor, the starving and the hopeless throughout the developing world, was inspiring. As I committed to John in my prayers at his funeral and to his family, we will endeavor to serve them with the same distinction and purpose that John

and our committed USAID employees do for the American people everyday at over 80 missions and offices around the world.

In closing, I want the Committee to know that, if confirmed, I intend to make myself fully available to consult with interested staff and members on any and all matters at USAID that may fall within your purview. It is my strong belief that full and ongoing communications among all major stakeholders are required within our system of government if the U.S. national interest is to be effectively served, and I will dedicate myself to carrying out that principle.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement before the Committee. I now welcome any questions that you and the other Senators here today may have for me.

Thank you.