

## NOMINATIONS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Cruz, Scott, Shaheen, Murphy, Kaine, Van Hollen, and Rosen.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

Senator RISCH. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order. Today we have a panel of five nominees to serve the United States of America. We welcome all of you to our hearing today, and your families, who are as important as you are, we find out in these jobs.

For everyone here in the audience, we welcome you. Obviously this is an open hearing, and we welcome everyone here, but again, we have zero tolerance in the hearing for anyone who disrupts. And if they do, the usual consequences will apply.

Again, thank you all for being here today and particularly to your families.

We will start with Mr. Breslow. If confirmed, you will be the first political, non-career appointee, to serve as Ambassador to Cyprus, which demonstrates a historic advancement in our relationship with Cyprus.

Cyprus is a key partner in the Eastern Mediterranean and a critical crossroads between Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Today I hope to hear how you will work with the government of Cyprus on our shared interests in security, trade, energy, and more.

Mr. White, your nomination comes at a time when the United States faces threats across multiple regions. In this environment, the U.S. needs to quickly provide weapons and supplies to allies and partners, scale up production, and make sure that our Foreign Military Sales system can work quickly and at scale. The U.S. must remain the partner of choice in an era of intense competition for arms sales and security partnerships.

I hope to hear how you plan to work with this committee to vigorously implement President Trump's executive orders to make the items I have identified a reality. Arms sales are often a cornerstone

of our strategic alliances and partnerships, and we cannot let the bureaucratic process drive our partners toward Russia and China.

Mr. Steggerda, President Trump has made clear that he believes the U.N. can be reformed and returned “back to basics.” I, too, want to see reform, but it must be done in good faith, and it must be systemwide with individuals held accountable for its failures.

Today we are considering you for the seat at our mission in Geneva, one of the global U.N. hubs. This position also previously represented the U.S. at the U.N. Human Rights Council, but now that President Trump has rightly withdrawn us from this broken institution, it is my hope that you will be able to spend all of your effort reforming the agencies you will work with in Geneva.

Mr. Griffith, you have been nominated to serve as both the United States Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and as the United States Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency. If confirmed, you will lead an important portfolio with significant national security considerations for the United States.

Anyone who has not visited that office should do so. It is really important to the United States, and it is important that it is well led.

Following President Trump’s call for reform across the U.N. system, Ambassador Waltz and his team in New York have made real progress, and I am looking forward to seeing the same in your post, if confirmed.

I also look forward to hearing how you will capitalize on the Administration’s efforts to ensure the United Nations in Vienna and also in Geneva are worthy of continued American support.

Mr. Cassidy, as Ambassador for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, you will lead the Cyber and Digital Policy Bureau’s efforts to promote policies that advance American cyber innovation and leadership, work with allies to align technology standards to advance shared interests, counter competitors like China, and bolster allied capacity to respond to cyber threats.

You will now also be responsible for CDP’s expanded science and tech mission as a result of the recent State Department reorganization. You will play a major role in advancing key Trump administration policies like the AI Action Plan, Tech Prosperity Deals, security of undersea infrastructure, and many others. I look forward to hearing how you will work with your counterparts in the Administration to address these threats.

Again, thank you again to all of our nominees. And at this point I usually turn to the Ranking Member. She is in a very important meeting which she cannot get out of right now but will be along in a little bit. And if she wishes to make an opening statement either verbally or put in the record, we will take that at that time.

In the meantime, Mr. Breslow, let’s start with you.

Senator RICKETTS. Can I do the introduction?

Senator RISCH. I did not know you were going to do an introduction.

Senator RICKETTS. Of Mr. Breslow.

Senator RISCH. Please.

Senator RICKETTS. And that gives the Ranking Member time to get here too.

Senator RISCH. That is true.

Senator RICKETTS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my distinct honor to introduce my fellow Nebraskan, my friend, and the nominee to serve as the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. John Breslow. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to John's family. As we all know, these roles are never taken alone. Behind every public servant is a family whose support makes that service possible. And I know John is deeply grateful for their support.

Cyprus sits at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, making it strategically important and an important partner for the United States. Adversaries like Communist China are working aggressively to expand their economic and political influence across these regions. Beijing has deepened its footprint in Cyprus through trade, infrastructure, and telecommunications, using economic leverage to shape political alignment within the European Union. This moment calls for strong, experienced leadership, someone who understands how to navigate complex relationships, defend American interests, and strengthen ties with key partners. John Breslow is that leader.

John has built an impressive career, spanning business, public service, and philanthropy. He is the former owner and Chairman of Linweld, Inc., where he led one of the largest industrial gas and welding supply companies in the country. He also served the people of Nebraska as State Auditor from 1991 to 1999, where he earned a reputation for accountability, transparency, and sound financial stewardship.

Beyond his professional accomplishments John has dedicated much of his life to giving back. He has served in leadership roles across numerous charitable and community organizations in Nebraska. His record reflects a deep commitment to service, strong leadership, and the ability to manage complex operations. These are qualities that are essential in this role.

As Ambassador to Cyprus, John will play a critical role in strengthening U.S.-Cyprus relations, advancing our security and economic interests, and ensuring that American leadership remains strong in the region, where it is increasingly being challenged.

I want to thank President Trump for selecting a nominee who brings real world experience, proven leadership, and a strong understanding of both business and government to this important post. John, your experience, your judgment, your commitment to service make you well suited to this role at this critical time. I look forward to supporting your nomination, and I highly urge all of my colleagues to support you, as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Ricketts.

Now what we would like to do is hear from each of you for about 5 minutes. If you have a longer statement, obviously we will put in the record anything you would like in the record. But this is your opportunity to spend about 5 minutes giving us your pitch, why you should have this job.

So we will start, Mr. Breslow, with you.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN BRESLOW, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

Mr. BRESLOW. Thank you, Senator Ricketts, for introducing me. I really appreciate it.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and esteemed members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus. I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence in me, and I am grateful to this committee for considering my nomination.

I was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, a community that instilled in me from an early age a respect for hard work, public responsibility, and the importance of civic life. For more than 50 years, I have been fortunate to share my life with my wife, Sonia, who is here behind me today. Together we raised three daughters, and we are proud grandparents to five grandchildren, and my youngest daughter is behind me today. Family has been the constant foundation of my life and the source of perspective that keeps professional responsibilities grounded in enduring values.

My professional career was spent primarily in the private sector, where I served as owner and Chairman of the Board of Linweld, Inc., which grew into one of the largest industrial gas and welding supply companies in the United States, building long term partnerships, principles that translate directly into effective international relationships.

Public service has been a defining element of my life. In 1990 I was elected Nebraska State Auditor and was honored to be re-elected in 1994. In that role, I focused on stewardship, transparency, and the careful management of public resources. In 1998 I ran for Governor of Nebraska, an experience that further deepened my respect for democratic institutions and the responsibilities entrusted to those who serve within them.

I have had the privilege of serving on numerous civic and non-profit boards, including Swift Transportation, the Lincoln Human Rights Commission, the Lincoln YMCA Board, and as Chairman of the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. These roles strengthened my belief that durable institutions depend on collaboration, mutual respect, and commitment to the common good.

Outside my professional life, I pursued aviation for nearly five decades, flying most recently as a single pilot in a Cessna CJ3 jet. Aviation reinforced discipline, judgment, and respect for systems, lessons equally relevant in public leadership. I am also an automobile enthusiast who believes that craftsmanship is best understood through use and experience. If confirmed, I would bring these experiences and principles to the critical mission of representing American interests in Cyprus.

The enduring friendship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus is built upon a foundation of a mutually beneficial collaboration and a steadfast commitment to peace. Our bilateral relations are rooted in a shared vision for stability and prosperity in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. Since the December 2018 signing of a Statement of Intent on bilateral security cooperation and the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and

Energy Partnership Act of 2019, the U.S.-ROC security relationship has deepened significantly.

Through growing economic collaboration and robust security cooperation, the United States continues to strengthen these bonds. This includes training and exercises with the State of New Jersey through the State Partnership Program.

Cyprus's strategic importance, at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, makes its partnership vital to American interests and to the broader transatlantic community.

If confirmed, my first priority will be to protect the safety and security of Americans in the Republic of Cyprus. The ROC has proven a valuable and reliable partner to the United States to assist U.S. citizens evacuating out of crisis areas, including in recent years.

Our cooperation is making the region more resilient to dangerous actions and keeping America safe. Our strong relations have earned the confidence of American companies to establish operations or expand their presence on the island.

If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to strengthen this partnership, ensuring that our diplomatic efforts translate into tangible benefits for the American people. By advancing trade and investment opportunities, we will make our economies more competitive and our nations more prosperous.


Above all, if confirmed, I will carry forward the spirit of collaboration that defines the U.S.-ROC relationship and will continue to champion a Cyprus led, U.N. facilitated effort to unify the island as a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality for all Cypriots consistent with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Our shared ideals and mutual aspirations offer a clear path toward a safer, stronger, and more prosperous future for both nations. If confirmed, I will seek to build a partnership that not only reflects our shared values but also delivers meaningful progress for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, and I welcome your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?  
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?  
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?  
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?  
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?  
Answer: Yes

  
Printed Name: John Breslow  
Date: 4/16/26

[The prepared statement of Mr. Breslow follows:]

**Prepared Statement of John Breslow**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and esteemed Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus. I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence in me, and I am grateful to this Committee for considering my nomination.

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My professional career was spent primarily in the private sector, where I served as owner and Chairman of the Board of Linweld, Inc., which grew into one of the largest industrial gas and welding supply companies in the United States. Building and leading that organization reinforced the importance of trust, accountability, and long-term partnerships—principles that translate directly into effective international relationships.

Public service has been a defining element of my life. In 1990, I was elected Nebraska State Auditor and was honored to be reelected in 1994. In that role, I focused on stewardship, transparency, and the careful management of public resources. In 1998, I ran for Governor of Nebraska, an experience that further deepened my respect for democratic institutions and the responsibilities entrusted to those who serve within them.

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Outside my professional life, I pursued aviation for nearly five decades, flying most recently as a single-pilot in a Cessna CJ3. Aviation reinforced discipline, judgment, and respect for systems—lessons equally relevant in public leadership. I am also an automobile enthusiast who believes that craftsmanship is best understood through use and experience. If confirmed, I would bring these experiences and principles to the critical mission of representing American interests in Cyprus.

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By advancing trade and investment opportunities, we will make our economies more competitive and our nations more prosperous. Above all, if confirmed, I will carry forward the spirit of collaboration that defines the U.S.-ROC relationship and will continue to champion a Cypriot-led, UN-facilitated effort to reunify the island as a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality for all Cypriots consistent with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Our shared ideals and mutual aspirations offer a clear path toward a safer, stronger, and more prosperous fu-

ture for both nations. If confirmed, I will seek to build a partnership that not only reflects our shared values but also delivers meaningful progress for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I welcome your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you. Mr. Breslow, we will get to questions in a bit. First we will hear from the remainder of the nominees. Mr. White.

**STATEMENT OF FLEET WHITE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Mr. WHITE. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs. I am honored by this nomination and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the confidence they have shown in me.

Thanks to my family for their unwavering support. I am joined today by my wife Adrienne, my son Fleet, and my parents, Fleet and Priscilla. Special thanks to my parents-in-law, Tommy and Barbara Gamez, for raising a wonderful daughter. And thanks also to my sister Daphne, who is about to have her first baby, or else she would be here too.

If confirmed, I would assume responsibility for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at perhaps the most consequential time in its history. The Bureau sits at the intersection of diplomacy, security cooperation, and the American industrial base. Its mission is to make sure that our security partnerships and defense trade advance U.S. strategic objectives while strengthening our own readiness and industrial capacity.

My career experiences up to this point have prepared me well for this role. I have had the honor of serving in the Bureau since President Trump's Inauguration Day last year. Prior to joining the State Department, I practiced law as an attorney here in Washington, DC, and before that I was a submarine officer in the United States Navy.

If confirmed, I would focus on four priorities. First, taking care of the people. The Bureau is home to over 500 full time staff, military advisors, contractors, and foreign policy advisors assigned to major Department of War commands. Supporting the workforce is the necessary first step to executing the Bureau's critical mission.

Second, reforming and accelerating the foreign defense sales process. For years, partners have raised legitimate concerns about the speed and predictability of our system, but thanks to President Trump we are turning the ship around. The President has directed historic reforms to improve accountability, cut unnecessary bureaucracy, and ensure that the United States remains the partner of choice to reliably and rapidly deliver the best military equipment in the world. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Department of War, Congress, and American industry to implement these reforms and ensure continued American dominance in arms exports.

Third, strengthening deterrence by building capable partners who can carry more of the burden for their own security. The President has been clear that peace is preserved through strength—military strength, economic strength, and strong partnerships that ad-

vance our interests. America's alliances and partnerships remain a powerful strategic advantage, but they work best when partners invest seriously in their own defense and contribute to regional stability. Our security cooperation programs, security assistance, and arms transfers should help trusted partners build the capabilities they need to defend themselves, operate alongside U.S. forces, and deter aggression before it starts.

Fourth, ensuring that our defense trade and security assistance strengthens the readiness of the American warfighter and our industrial base. Our ability to deter and if necessary win conflicts depends on a strong industrial foundation here at home. Strategic arms transfers support domestic reindustrialization through expanding production lines, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring that the United States retains the technological and manufacturing edge required to equip our military.

In all of these efforts, Congress is an essential partner. The Bureau's responsibilities, from foreign military financing to foreign military sales, depend on close coordination with this committee and with Congress as a whole. If confirmed, I am committed to regular consultation, transparency, and responsiveness to the committee's vital oversight responsibilities.

If confirmed, I will approach my responsibilities with humility and a deep respect for the faith that the President, the Secretary, and you have placed in me. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Additional Nominee Questions

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?

Answer: Yes

2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?

Answer: Yes

3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

Answer: Yes

4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?

Answer: Yes

5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?

Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Fleet White

Date: 4/16/26

[The prepared statement of Mr. White follows:]

**Prepared Statement of Fleet White**

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Thanks to my family for their unwavering support. I am joined today by my wife Adrienne, son Fleet, and parents, Fleet and Priscilla. Special thanks to my parents-in-law, Tommy and Barbara Gamez for raising a wonderful daughter. And thanks also to my sister Daphne, who is about to have her first baby, or else she would be here too.

If confirmed, I would assume responsibility for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at perhaps the most consequential time in its history. Political-military affairs have never been more central to our national security. The Bureau sits at the intersection of diplomacy, security cooperation, and the American industrial base. Its mission is to make sure that our security partnerships and defense trade advance U.S. strategic objectives while strengthening our own readiness and industrial capacity.

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If confirmed, I will approach my responsibilities with humility and a deep respect for the faith that the President, the Secretary, and you have placed in me. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. White.

Mr. Steggerda. Am I pronouncing that right?

Mr. STEGGERDA. You are, Mr. Chairman. That was perfect.

**STATEMENT OF TODD STEGGERDA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR**

Mr. STEGGERDA. Thank you.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am honored, I am very honored, to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as the Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the Rank of Ambassador.

I am joined today by my wife, who I believe is sitting directly behind me, Trisha, a neonatal nurse who was working at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia when we met 37 years ago. I am so thankful for her support on this lifelong journey together.

Reflecting on the long path from America's heartland that led me here, now spanning six decades, it became clear that the most profound influences in my life occurred during the first two.

I was born in April 1965 during a tumultuous time in history, on the eve of an expanded military draft for the Vietnam war. And in 1971 our family adopted the first of two Korean children, my sisters, victims in the long aftermath of the Korean War.

Coming of age in the 1970s, I remember the fall of Saigon in 1975, helicopters trying to rescue Americans from rooftops, indelible images from my youth. And I remember the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, and the failed military mission to rescue them, which dominated the news for 444 days. As my political identity was forming, it appeared to me that America had grown weak, seemingly unable to protect its citizens.

In 1982 I applied to the U.S. Naval Academy. I wanted to serve my country, and I wanted to do my part in making it strong again. At Annapolis I studied leadership and obtained an aerospace engineering degree. Later, as a Naval Aviator, I had the honor to serve as a Navy F-18 pilot in one of the Navy's most heralded strike fighter squadrons, the VFA-105 "Gunslingers," and in 1992 my squadron deployed to the Mediterranean aboard the Kennedy at the start of the Bosnian civil war.

In 1994 I transitioned to the law, and over the next 30 years built an investigations practice at the intersection of business, law, and politics, with a strong focus in the waste, fraud, and abuse arena, including procurement matters with an international dimension.

As a Washington lawyer, I built strong teams and held leadership positions along the way, including chair of a Government Contracts Practice, chair of a Government Investigations Department, and as a Deputy Managing Partner for Strategic Development of a powerhouse law firm with 1,000 attorneys and revenues exceeding \$1 billion.

My leadership, military, political, national security, procurement, investigations, and negotiations experience provides a solid foundation to address the challenges at the U.N. in Geneva.

And the most fundamental challenge is this: although the U.N. was founded with a noble mission to promote peace and security, it has strayed from that core purpose. In Geneva, strong leadership is essential to protecting America's vital interests and advancing a robust U.N. reform agenda.

As the U.S. Ambassador in Geneva, I intend to focus on two overarching priorities. First, I will steadfastly advance the values and interests of Americans and protect our sovereignty across the U.N. System and International Organizations based in Geneva, including by ensuring a level playing field for American businesses. Unfortunately, many Geneva based organizations, including the specialized and technical agencies, which set global standards of great consequence to the American people and our great businesses, have become overtly political, with ever expanding mandates, and with growing opportunities for U.S. adversaries to impose their own agendas. I will leverage U.S. influence to ensure that America's voice, expertise, and values stay at the forefront.

As my second priority, I will support the ongoing focus on reforms in the U.N. system. And nowhere is reform more important than in the humanitarian agencies, which perform some of the United Nations' most important and critical work, and where significant reform is already underway. And I will also focus as part of the reforms on long term sustainability issues through compensation reform, which is an unfathomable gap in UN80 efforts.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Shaheen, and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to ensure the United States is well represented in this critical Geneva post.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Additional Nominee Questions**

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Answer: Yes
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Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Todd Steggerda

Date: 4/16/26

[The prepared statement of Mr. Steggerda follows:]

**Prepared Statement of Todd Steggerda**

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At Annapolis, I studied leadership and obtained an Aerospace Engineering degree. Later, as a Naval Aviator, I had the honor to serve as a Navy F-18 pilot in one of the Navy’s most heralded squadrons: the VFA-105 “Gunslingers”, and in 1992, my squadron deployed to the Mediterranean aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* at the start of the Bosnian civil war.

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As the U.S. Ambassador in Geneva, I intend to focus on two over-arching priorities:

First, I will steadfastly advance the values and interests of Americans and protect our sovereignty across the U.N. System and International Organizations based in Geneva, including by ensuring a level playing field for American businesses.

Unfortunately, many Geneva-based organizations, including Specialized and Technical Agencies, which set global standards of great consequence to the American people and our great businesses, have become overtly political, with ever-expanding mandates, and with growing opportunities for U.S. adversaries to impose their own agendas. I will leverage U.S. influence to ensure that America’s voice, expertise, and values stay at the forefront, including through leadership positions, and that we effectively counter the prolific efforts of our adversaries.

As my second priority, I will support the ongoing focus on reforms across the U.N. System. And nowhere is reform more important than in the humanitarian agencies, which perform some of the UN’s most critical work and where significant reform is already underway.

The landmark MOU with the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) signals President Trump’s commitment to remaining the world’s most generous nation while supercharging reforms to make life-saving humanitarian aid more impactful and accountable—a critical step in reforming the way we fund, oversee, and integrate with U.N. humanitarian efforts.

And I will also focus on long-term sustainability through compensation reform—an unfathomable gap in UN80 efforts.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Shaheen, Members of the Committee: thank you for your consideration. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to ensure the United States is well represented in this critical Geneva Post.

I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.  
Mr. Griffith.

**STATEMENT OF THE HON. PRESTON WELLS GRIFFITH III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE VIENNA OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AND TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR**

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role. I am honored and deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by the President and the Secretary of State.

If confirmed, I would be humbled to represent the United States at some of the world's most consequential multilateral institutions and seek to ensure that every mission we undertake in Vienna delivers a tangible return for the American people and advances American interests.

I also want to thank the most important people in my life, my family, without whose love and support I would not be here today. Joining me is my wife Catherine, and our 9 year old son Wells. Their unwavering love, patience, and encouragement give me the strength, purpose, and resolve to serve.

I would also like to recognize my parents, who could not be here today. Through their constant love and encouragement, my mother Donata, and my father Preston, instilled in me the values of hard work, service, and humility that guide me every day. They continue to inspire me with their courage and resilience, particularly as my father battles ALS, an incurable and progressive neurodegenerative disease, with my mother by his side.

Last, I want to thank my siblings, friends, and colleagues, whose support, encouragement, and friendship have sustained me throughout my life and continue to do so.

I have been privileged to serve in a number of senior roles across the U.S. Government, including at the Department of Energy, the National Security Council at the White House, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and the Department of State, during both of President Trump's Administrations. Those experiences have prepared me well for the position for which I have been nominated. In all of these roles, I have been fortunate to work alongside so many exceptional career public servants, scientists, engineers, and professionals who are among the best in govern-

ment. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with them to advance American security, prosperity, and interests.

The Vienna based international organizations address an extraordinary range of important technical issues—nuclear non-proliferation, outer space governance, export controls, countering illicit drugs, and preventing transnational crime and human trafficking, just to name a few. These are not abstractions. They touch the safety and security of Americans every day. The stakes are exceptionally high.

My central commitment, if confirmed, will be straightforward—ensure every one of these organizations advances American values and interests.

President Trump said the United Nations has real potential. I believe that, too. But potential is not performance. Many U.N. bodies, including those in Vienna, have drifted far from their mandates. These organizations must return to their core mandates, making sure that technical bodies stay technical, and that political issues are handled in the appropriate forums. In Vienna, this means advancing U.S. priorities of countering illicit drugs, disrupting transnational criminal and terrorist networks, ensuring nuclear materials do not fall into the wrong hands, and insisting that nuclear materials and technologies are used for exclusively peaceful purposes. The United States must help restore discipline, clarity, and credibility to these institutions.

An America First approach does not mean stepping back. It means showing up with clarity about our interests and confidence in our values. If confirmed, I will work closely with our allies and our traditional and non-traditional partners to ensure that Vienna based agencies reflect the principles we share—transparency, accountability, and respect for sovereignty.

These are especially important in the agencies in Vienna covering issues that have real world implications for Americans every day.

The work of the International Atomic Energy Agency is critically important in the areas of nuclear safeguards, safety, security, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This work is essential to U.S. national security interests. If confirmed, I will utilize the expertise of our team and our interagency partners as I engage on these complex matters, ensuring the IAEA delivers on its core mandate in a way that aligns with U.S. interests. This includes keeping the IAEA focused on holding Iran accountable to its IAEA safeguards, which is a requirement under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. President Trump has been clear: the United States will not allow the threat of a nuclear armed Iran to destabilize the region. If confirmed, I will coordinate with other missions to support maximum pressure efforts through every available multilateral channel. I will work to strengthen relationships and amplify U.S. messaging on why addressing this threat is so important.

Across all of this work, accountability is essential. We must uphold the highest standards of transparency, professionalism, and integrity, and be prepared to enforce them.

If confirmed, I will ensure that Vienna-based organizations deliver for the United States by promoting clear mandates.

Thank you, Chairman. I look forward to your questions and the committee's.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Additional Nominee Questions

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?  
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?  
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?  
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?  
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?  
Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Preston Wells Griffith

Date: 4/16/20

[The prepared statement of Mr. Griffith follows:]

**Prepared Statement of Hon. Preston Wells Griffith III**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve in this role. I am honored and deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by the President and the Secretary of State. If confirmed, I would be humbled to represent the United States at some of the world's most consequential multilateral institutions and seek to ensure that every mission we undertake in Vienna delivers a tangible return for the American people and advances American interests.

I also want to thank the most important people in my life—my family, without whose love and support I would not be here today. Joining me today is my wife, Catherine, and our 9-year-old son, Wells. Their unwavering love, patience, and encouragement give me the strength, purpose, and resolve to serve.

I would also like to recognize my parents, who could not be here today. Through their constant love and encouragement, my mother, Donata, and my father, Preston, instilled in me the values of hard work, service, and humility that guide me every day. They continue to inspire me with their courage and resilience, particularly as my father battles amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, an incurable and progressive neurodegenerative disease, with my mother by his side every step of the way.

Last, I want to thank my siblings, friends, and colleagues, whose support, encouragement, and friendship have sustained me throughout my life and continue to do so.

I have been privileged to serve in a number of senior roles across the U.S. Government, including at the Department of Energy, the National Security Council at the White House, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and the Department of State, during both of President Trump's administrations. Those experiences have prepared me well for the position for which I have been nominated. In all of these roles, I've been fortunate to work alongside so many exceptional career public servants, scientists, engineers, and professionals who are among the best in government. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with them to advance American security, prosperity, and interests.

The Vienna-based international organizations address an extraordinary range of important technical issues—nuclear nonproliferation, outer space governance, export controls, countering illicit drugs, and preventing transnational crime and human trafficking, to name a few. These are not abstractions: they touch the safety and security of Americans every day. The stakes are exceptionally high.

My central commitment, if confirmed, will be straightforward: ensure every one of these organizations advances American values and interests.

President Trump said the United Nations has real potential. I believe that, too. But potential is not performance. Many U.N. bodies, including those in Vienna, have drifted far from their mandates. These organizations must return to their core mandates, making sure that technical bodies stay technical, and that political issues are handled in the appropriate forums. In Vienna, this means advancing U.S. priorities of countering illicit drugs, disrupting transnational criminal and terrorist networks, ensuring nuclear materials do not fall into the wrong hands, and insisting that nuclear materials and technologies are used for exclusively peaceful purposes. The United States must help restore discipline, clarity, and credibility to these institutions.

An America First approach does not mean stepping back—it means showing up with clarity about our interests and confidence in our values. If confirmed, I will work closely with allies and traditional and non-traditional partners to ensure that Vienna-based agencies reflect principles we share—transparency, accountability, and respect for sovereignty.

These are especially important in agencies covering issues that have real-world implications for Americans, such as countering the spread of illicit narcotics and synthetic opioids, combating migrant smuggling, fighting the scourge of online scams and sextortion, and advancing the safe and responsible use of outer space, while leveraging public-private partnerships.

The work of the International Atomic Energy Agency is critically important in the areas of nuclear safeguards, safety, security, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This work is essential to U.S. national security interests. If confirmed, I will utilize the expertise of our team and interagency partners as I engage on these complex

matters, ensuring the IAEA delivers on its core mandate in a way that aligns with U.S. interests.

This includes keeping the IAEA focused on holding Iran accountable to its IAEA safeguards agreement, which is a requirement under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). President Trump has been clear: the United States will not allow the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran to destabilize the region. If confirmed, I will coordinate with other Missions to support maximum pressure efforts through every available multilateral channel. I will work to strengthen relationships and amplify U.S. messaging on why addressing this threat is so important.

The U.N. system has grown in scope and cost. We have a responsibility to ensure that every dollar contributed by the American taxpayer is used effectively. That requires streamlining budgets, reducing duplication, and demanding measurable outcomes—all of which make Vienna-based institutions even more effective. Advancing efforts for our historical allies to step up their financial contributions and share among the funding burden at the IAEA will allow for its critical work on high-profile nuclear files, such as Iran and Ukraine.

Across all of this work, accountability is essential. We must uphold the highest standards of transparency, professionalism, and integrity—and be prepared to enforce them.

If confirmed, I will ensure that Vienna-based organizations deliver for the United States by promoting clear mandates, strengthening efficiency and oversight, countering adversarial influence, advancing American leadership, and driving progress on nuclear nonproliferation and transnational security threats. That is how we help the U.N. live up to its full potential.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Griffith.

Mr. Cassady.

#### **STATEMENT OF ADAM CASSADY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR CYBERSPACE AND DIGITAL POLICY**

Mr. CASSADY. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is a profound honor to be nominated by President Trump to serve as Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy. I am deeply grateful for the confidence of President Trump and Secretary Rubio. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to advance America's leadership in the digital age.

America is the world's leading technological power. We achieved that position not by accident, but through a simple and enduring formula: free enterprise, world class research institutions, strong protection of intellectual property, free speech protection, limited and predictable regulation, and close collaboration between government and the private sector.

Economic security is national security. The digital infrastructure that underpins the global economy, from subsea cables and secure telecommunications networks to data centers, semiconductors, and satellites, is now as strategically significant as sea lanes, airspace, and energy routes were in earlier eras. Protecting and strengthening that infrastructure is central to preserving American power and prosperity.

We are living through a technological transformation that will fundamentally reorder the global economy. Artificial intelligence, advanced semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, autonomy, robotics, related critical infrastructure, and next generation telecommunications will shape productivity, military power, supply chains, and global standards for decades to come. The nation that leads in innovating, deploying, and securing these technologies will shape the rules of the international system deep into

the 21st century. Our competitors are investing heavily, seeking to steal intellectual property, censor or limit free speech, dominate supply chains, and influence global regulatory standards in ways that advantage their systems and disadvantage ours.

If digital infrastructure is built on insecure foundations, if trusted vendors are displaced by coercive actors, or if global standards are written without respect to our values, we risk ceding strategic ground. That is unacceptable.

This is why cyber and digital diplomacy are indispensable tools of American statecraft. The Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, or CDP, plays a central role in aligning our diplomacy with our economic and security priorities. CDP works across the interagency and with America's allies to secure supply chains, promote trusted technology, defend an open and interoperable internet, and ensure that international standards reflect democratic values and free enterprise principles.

Our diplomacy seeks to keep the global digital economy open for business, ensuring that the innovative engine of the global economy is protected, not constrained by discriminatory regulation, arbitrary data localization requirements, coercive trade practices, or insecure infrastructure dependencies. We must build coalitions of trusted partners who share our commitment to secure, resilient, and open digital ecosystems.

I am grateful to Congress for authorizing the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy and for your continued oversight and partnership. The stakes in this domain are enormous, and sustained bipartisan engagement is essential. It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve in this role.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?

Answer: Yes

2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?

Answer: Yes

3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

Answer: Yes

4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?

Answer: Yes

5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?

Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Adam Cassidy

Date: 4/16/26

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cassady follows:]

**Prepared Statement of Adam Cassady**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

It is a profound honor to be nominated by President Trump to serve as Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy. I am deeply grateful for the confidence of President Trump and Secretary Rubio. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to advance America's leadership in the digital age.

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It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve in this role.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.

Senator RICKETTS [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Cassady, and you actually came in under 5 minutes, so good job.

All right. So now we are going to do a round of 5 minute questions, and I note that the Chairman stepped out to go vote. I think he will be back because I know he has got some questions, as well. But I will go ahead and begin, and then I will turn it over to the Ranking Member for her questions.

First of all, congratulations to all of our nominees, and again, thank you to the families who are making it possible for you to be able to serve our great nation.

Last year, I led a CODEL with Senator Coons and Senator Budd to Taiwan. What stood out to me was a partner that understands the threat from Beijing and is stepping up in a serious way. Under President Lai's whole society resilient initiative, the Taiwanese people are being mobilized to withstand and push back against coercion.

At the same time, the government is pursuing meaningful military reforms, including strengthening its reserve forces. Taiwan's legislature is also actively working to increase defense spending, with a \$40 billion defense budget, to meet the scale of the challenges they face.

Taiwan is stepping up, and they need a partner that is equally committed to their defense. The backlog in U.S. arms deliveries to Taiwan remains a serious problem. Critical systems, from HIMARS and harpoon missiles to howitzers and F-16s have all been delayed for years. As China's threat continues to grow, that kind of delay is unacceptable.

Mr. White, my understanding is that these delays stem from both industrial base constraints and inefficiencies in our arms sales process. If confirmed, how would you implement the America First Arms Transfer Strategy to reduce this backlog and accelerate deliveries to Taiwan?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator.

As you rightly point out, the President has embarked on an absolutely historic and aggressive reform of our defense sales. When it comes to Taiwan, in particular, I point out the President and the Secretary's historic \$11.1 billion notification of arms sales just last December as an example of the President and the Secretary's commitment to ensuring Taiwan sufficient self-defense.

When it comes to the broader Presidential reforms, the President really needs to be commended on, for the first time, taking on kind of all three legs of our defense trade process. When you look at a lot of prior reform efforts, where they failed is not having very sustained, high level attention on all legs of kind of the defense trade stool, if you will. You know, you have the approval process, for which Congress and the State Department are a key part. You also have the acquisition and contracting phase. And then you finally have industry's ability to deliver. What makes a lot of the President's most recent reform efforts is that he is addressing all three of those simultaneously, by executive action, and working in close coordination with Congress in doing so.

So when it comes to Taiwan, in particular, you know, I would say a lot of the President's reform efforts here are directed toward getting the munitions and a lot of the defensive equipment that Taiwan needs, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the committee in ensuring we can do just that.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Well, thank you very much, Mr. White, because actually I believe Congress does have a role here to play. We can treat Taiwan more like a close security partner by placing it in the NATO-plus category, shortening notification timelines, and raising thresholds for arms sales for this.

I have actually introduced the PORCUPINE Act with Senator Coons, which does exactly that. It puts Taiwan in the NATO-plus category for 7 years.

Mr. White, do you believe that efforts like the PORCUPINE Act are necessary to speed up arms deliveries and strengthen deterrence against Communist China, and if confirmed, would you support these kinds of reforms?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator.

Yes, I do agree with that, and reemphasize the United States has a longstanding one-China policy, which is dictated and directed by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three joint communiqués, and the six assurances. The United States, under Secretary Rubio and President Trump, is committed to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee on ways that we can ensure we do that.

Senator RICKETTS. Are you familiar with the PORCUPINE Act specifically?

Mr. WHITE. Not specifically, Senator, but I am happy to work with you on that.

Senator RICKETTS. I would encourage you strongly to take a look at that. Obviously, I have got a little bit of personal vested interest in that one since I introduced it.

So I am running out of time here on the questions, but can you talk a little bit about the coordinated interagency strategy to dissuade countries from purchasing Chinese weapons? Obviously, one of the things we have seen, we just talk about our weapons and getting those out. Russia is another one of the big providers, but they are tied up with the war in Ukraine. France is a big provider. But China has been taking advantage of the fact that we have been slow to deliver arms and Russia has been busy. So how can we make sure that our partners out there are not buying Chinese weapons?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator.

The bottom line here is the United States industry makes by far the best weapons in the world, and as you rightly point out, we are by far the largest arms exporter in the world. We need to make sure that we get our equipment to the right people, on time, when we say we will, and export controls like ITAR and other things, for which the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs oversees and is responsible, should help make it easier to work with our closest partners and not impede that process. And if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and others on this committee to doing that.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Mr. White.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations to all of our nominees this morning, and thank you to you and your families and supporters who are here for your willingness to serve.

I want to follow up, Mr. White, on Senator Ricketts' questions about Taiwan, because Senator Curtis and I led a bipartisan delegation to Taiwan 2 weeks ago. And we were there to reinforce the positive partnership that the United States and Taiwan have.

One of the things we spent some time talking about is the \$40 billion defense package that is now going through the Taiwan Yuan, the legislature. But we also talked about the arms sales that have been approved. As you know, Congress pre-approved roughly \$14 billion in arms sales to Taiwan in January. I think Senator Ricketts referenced that a little bit. But so far we have not heard

from the Administration. They have not submitted a congressional notification on these sales. And it seems to me, as we are looking at the President's trip to China next month that it would be a very strong message to send to have Congress be notified that the Administration is moving forward on those arms sales. So can you tell us what is holding those up?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for the question, Senator, and thank you to you and to your staff. It was great to meet with them and to discuss this issue, among others. And as you point out, the President and the Secretary take our Taiwan weapons sales very seriously. I think the \$11 billion back last December is a testament to that.

I believe over the last decade there has been about \$40 billion total in foreign military sales notified to Congress. So in 1 month—

Senator SHAHEEN. I understand that. But I am interested in this \$14 billion and when that is going to get notified.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Senator. It is my understanding that the Department does not necessarily comment on any potential or future arms sales, largely out of respect to a lot of the tiered review in that informal process. But if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you and the committee on what we can do to help get Taiwan the systems it needs for its sufficient self-defense.

Senator SHAHEEN. OK. So you do commit to advocating for all paused arms sales to Taiwan be done without delay.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator.

You know, if confirmed—

Senator SHAHEEN. That is a yes or no question.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, I commit to, you know, within my chain of command, to doing just that, yes.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Mr. Breslow, the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 repealed restrictions on the transfer of defense articles to the Republic of Cyprus, if the Secretary certifies annually that Cyprus continues to cooperate with the United States on anti-money laundering regulations and financial regulatory oversight. Cyprus has met these requirements every year since the full scale invasion of Ukraine. It is important to continue these efforts, I believe, in part to ensure that Russia cannot use Cypriot jurisdiction for sanctions evasion, which we know Russia has had some subversive activities in Cyprus in the past.

So if confirmed, do you commit to prioritizing continued progress in Cyprus with respect to money laundering through the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force recommendations?

Mr. BRESLOW. Thank you for your question, Senator, and also thank you for allowing your staff to meet with me. I learned a lot from them.

Yes, I do commit to do that. I think it is very, very important that we continue. I know the Justice Department and the FBI is working on a lot of these issues, and I think we need to continue to do it. Cyprus has really worked very hard to get to the point where bad actors are not allowed to do business in Cyprus, and I think they are going to continue doing that, and I will do everything I can to help that.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. I appreciate that. We try and meet with all the nominees, so I appreciate your willingness to meet with our staff.

Mr. Cassady, one of the issues that we have been following in Congress has been whether or not we are going to allow high level semiconductors from NVIDIA to go to China. Do you have a view on that? Because we have heard some mixed messages coming out of the Administration. Should we be providing those chips to China, and what will be the impact if we do?

Mr. CASSADY. Senator, thank you for the question, and I again would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with your staff. I certainly believe that this Administration is seeking to balance very important competing considerations as it relates to both economic prosperity and national security. And if confirmed, that will be an issue that I dig very deeply into. I have not had the benefit of, I think, being briefed at a classified level on many of those topics, so while I do not have a strong point of view on that topic yet, certainly I will very quickly develop one.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, I hope you will have a strong view, because what we have heard in some briefings is that if we provide those high level chips it gives China a real jumpstart in terms of the industry in ways that they do not currently have, and won't have unless we are providing them those chips. So I hope you will look into that, if you are approved. Thank you.

Senator RISCH [presiding]. Senator, I have got a couple of questions, then we will go over here.

Mr. White, foreign military sales are always an issue. Obviously, the system is somewhat cumbersome, probably by necessity, because of the shared responsibility of the first branch of government and the second branch of government. And the way it works, coming after Congress appropriates the funds, and then, obviously, the Administration, you guys make a decision. I guess it is Defense probably makes a decision. White House, National Security makes a decision. Then you guys get a shot at it. Then it comes to us, myself, Senator Shaheen, and our counterparts on the other side.

Speaking from my own operation, we see lots of them all the time, every day. And I have got a system of going through them that I think is pretty good. But having said that, man, we get a lot of complaints about foot dragging and what have you. And so in my system, if it is anything short of run of the mill and there is any kind of a review that is necessary, it comes to the top of the pile to me, and I deal with it within 24 hours. For whatever reason, before it gets to us, the first branch of government does not seem to have the same sense of urgency.

First of all, I urge you to take a look at that and see what you can do with it, and then second, your thoughts.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Chairman.

You rightfully point out that our allies and partners, for many years now, have rightly criticized the delays within our system. It is a testament to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for embarking on a truly historic reform effort along these lines. There have been no less than five executive orders really targeted to these defense trade reform issues. I would like to highlight a few.

Back right at the beginning of President Trump's second term, he put out an executive order on reforming defense sales for speed and accountability. And on the same day also put out another executive order on reforming our acquisition process. And then in January of this year he put out another executive order on protecting the U.S. warfighter in defense contracting. And then most lately he has put out an executive order on establishing an America First Arms Transfer strategy.

When you look at all of those together, you are seeing really, for the first time, a President that right out the gate of his Administration is tacking all legs of our defense trade, that includes, as you rightly point out, the approvals process, which is too slow and where most reform efforts are focused. But the President is really looking at those parts of our defense trade that take years, not necessarily weeks or months. I mean, you rightly point out shaving off 24 hours is huge, but when we look at a lot of our acquisition system and then industry's ability to deliver, to see the President tackle those issues, as well, is really where we are going to see a lot of change, where we are actually delivering to allies and partners in a timely manner.

You are absolutely right. We do need to focus on kind of that front end, the approvals process. But as I have told some of your staff, it is not Congress that is the problem here, really, and it is oftentimes not even the U.S. Government, more broadly, and our kind of slow approvals process. It really is those other parts. It is the acquisition and contracting and then industry's ability to deliver. President Trump absolutely has acknowledged that there is room for improvement here, and it is not going to happen overnight, but he really is turning the ship around.

Senator RISCH. Well, I first of all concur with that. The ship has been turned around to a degree. But again, it is one of the things we get complaints on. And we try to move our end as quickly as possible, even on a bipartisan basis, to get those done. So we urge you to continue to focus on those.

Mr. Griffith, I think one of the most important things that you are going to do is keeping an eye on the IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency. I visited that agency some years back, and I was aghast. I was not there very long, but I tell you, it did not take me long to figure out those guys had no idea what they were doing and how disorganized they were, in carrying out a function that is incredibly important to the world. Under the new leadership they have it is very different than that.

But having said that, I want to stress to you that you need to keep one eye on that agency, awake and looking at them at all times, because I am telling you, what they do there is incredibly important. Obviously, a lot of it has to do with Iran, and has for recent decades, but it is not just Iran. Now it is with the other things that are going on with China and other people that test that should not be testing.

I don't know how familiar you are with the agency or what they do or do not do, but your thoughts on that.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Yes, thank you, Chairman. I appreciate that information, and I am familiar with the agency. I was at the Depart-

ment of Energy in the first Trump administration, the White House National Security Council, and other senior roles.

I agree there is a lot of work to be done. I am a worker. I like to really get engaged with the very talented, career, civil service officers and foreign service officers, the technical experts and nuclear scientists, to make sure that we are carrying out the mission of the IAEA and advancing U.S. interests, and ensuring that they are doing their job and making the world more safe from non-proliferation risk but also advancing the peaceful use of energy, as well. So should I be confirmed you have my commitment to work with you and this committee in doing that.

Senator RISCH. Well, I appreciate that, I will tell you how I did it. I might suggest you do it. I walked in there and I said, "What do you guys do here?" and I let them have at it. And I tell you what, it did not take long to figure out they had a mission, there is no question about it, but they had no handle on executing that mission. So I would get over there and dig into it. Although I will tell you this. I am very satisfied with the guys that are running it now. That could change, as you know, in the immediate future, so keep at it.

Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congratulations to all of you.

And Mr. Griffith, I am going to pick up where the Chairman left off. I also visited the IAEA years ago, and I was actually impressed with the department of technical experience they had and with the U.S. team. And I think the U.S. team did a darn good job making sure the IAEA was doing what it was supposed to do.

Now, as you know, the Administration, President Trump, started the war in Iran, in part because he says he does not want Iran to have a nuclear weapon, and nobody wants Iran to have a nuclear weapon. But the truth is we had an agreement to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. It was the JCPOA. And it had very strict oversight requirements that were monitored by the IAEA. You are familiar with those?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Yes.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. So we may disagree about the agreement itself, the JCPOA, and whether it accomplished its intended result. But you would agree with me that Iran complied with the terms of the JCPOA, right?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you for the question, Senator.

I am familiar with the JCPOA. I was in the Administration, the first Administration, when the President withdrew the United States, because it did not go far enough.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. It was a more narrow question, Mr. Griffith. I said I do not want to argue about the JCPOA and its terms. What I want you to tell me is whether you agree, like the IAEA did, that Iran was complying with the terms of the JCPOA. Were they or were they not?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you, Senator.

So as I understand it, there was some questionable—there was some uncertainty whether some of their undeclared activities, which were happening pre the JCPOA, were actually in compliance.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. So, Mr. Griffith, if you were at the White House during this period of time, and you were doing energy issues, you should know that the Trump administration, the U.S. Government, when Trump was in the White House the first time, certified that Iran was in compliance with the JCPOA. They did it every 90 days since it began in 2016, overall, and twice under the first Trump administration, until the President withdrew in 2018. Are you familiar with the fact that the Trump administration certified compliance twice?

Mr. GRIFFITH. I believe so. I cannot recall, Senator.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, I just think it is important that you know that as you go to the IAEA, because there were very intrusive measures. Iran was found to be in compliance by them and by two U.S. Administrations, including the Trump administration, before Donald Trump tore it up, and here we are now in a war that the President decided to start, which would never have started if we had just extended the JCPOA.

Mr. White, you are a lawyer, right?

Mr. WHITE. Yes, Senator. Thank you for the question.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. And you served in the Navy?

Mr. WHITE. Yes.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you for your service. So you know the Law of War, right?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for the question, Senator. I am loosely familiar with that. I am not a practitioner or anything.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, you have been in charge of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau since the beginning of the Administration, right? You are the de facto leader. Is that right?

Mr. WHITE. Actually, I have been in the bureau since the beginning of the second Trump administration. I actually did not start in the senior bureau official role until the end of September last year.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. End of September last year. OK. And so part of your job is to ensure compliance with the existing Conventional Arms Transfer Policy, the CAT policy, right?

Mr. WHITE. Yes.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. OK. And under that policy each sale must take into account the risks that the transfer may contribute to violations of international humanitarian law, right?

Mr. WHITE. Yes, Senator, that is correct. Among other things, that is part of the—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. And so are you aware that Israeli's Minister of Defense Katz said, and I am quoting, "All homes in Lebanese villages near the border will be destroyed in accordance with the Rafah model." Are you familiar with that?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for the question, Senator. I am not familiar with that specific quote, no.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, I hope you will look into it because Rafah was literally wiped out. It was a town that was wiped out. And so it is concerning to me that you and your colleagues apparently did not look at these questions when you decided to advance the most recent batch of weapons sales to the Netanyahu government.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to close with Mr. Breslow.

Congratulations on your nomination. I have had a long time interest in Cyprus, both in terms of our bilateral relationship, also our ongoing efforts to try to reunify the island after the Turkish invasion back in 1974. I heard the Chairman's opening comments. There was one previous political appointee in the 1980s. I happened to be a staff member on this committee when they were nominated and had their hearing. And that did not go so well in Cyprus, which is one of the reasons we have had career folks who really understand the history of Cyprus.

So I have a different view of the decision to send a political appointee to Cyprus. I will say that my colleague, Senator Rosen, we were talking, and she assured me that you were somebody who would really dig into this and take it seriously, despite your lack of prior connection to Cyprus.

So I will end with a very simple question. Will you commit to keeping myself and the members of this committee informed, on a regular basis, if necessary, as to what your activities will be in Cyprus?

Mr. BRESLOW. Thank you for the question.

Absolutely. I think it is a big part of my responsibility to not only inform this committee but also the Secretary of State and the President about what is going on. Everybody in the United States needs to know, and I appreciate your thoughtful feelings about Cyprus. I think it is a great country.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Senator Cruz.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Griffith, it goes without saying that the most immediate national security concern for the United States is the conflict with Iran. Every one of the nominees at the table today is somehow implicated by it, whether it be issues of security cooperation or cyber vulnerability, or even the regime's attack on Cyprus.

As you know, the core of the conflict in Iran is Iran's drive to build a nuclear weapons arsenal. Iran's regime is built on their pledge to eradicate America, and I believe that they would absolutely use such an arsenal to try to achieve that goal.

President Trump has shown generational courage and determination in ending the threat that Iran poses to us. His basic demand is for Iran to stop enriching uranium. Iran does not need to enrich ever. The only motive for doing so is to keep alive their nuclear weapons program.

But pro-Iran activists and advocates say that Iran has a, quote/unquote, "right to enrich" under the NPT. It is something we hear all the time. I just the last few days, we have seen that it has been said by Iranian regime officials, Russian officials, and even the *Wall Street Journal*.

Of course, that claim is complete fiction. There is no such right under the NPT, no U.S. Administration has ever acknowledged such a right, and in any case, Iran specifically is not a member of the NPT in good standing.

Talk a little bit about this controversy, and specifically the claim that Iran has a right to enrich.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you, Senator, for your question.

Part of the grand bargain with the NPT was high standards of safety, security, non-proliferation, but also to unleash the atom for peace. So I think there is a right, when you are in compliance with the non-proliferation standards from the NPT, for civil nuclear peaceful use. And I think the President has been clear—Iran is not going to be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.

So if confirmed to this role, I will continue to support the Administration's policies and work with the other missions, as well, but to keep holding Iran accountable for their non-compliance with the NPT, their safeguards agreement, and continue that maximum pressure and enforcement of the sanctions, the snapback sanctions on them from the U.N. Security Council.

Senator CRUZ. Well, and let's try to be clear and unequivocal. Do you agree that Iran has zero right to enrich under the NPT?

Mr. GRIFFITH. I agree with the President. He has been clear that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons, and I will support those efforts, and I think we cannot trust Iran to be able to enrich, personally, as my personal opinion.

Senator CRUZ. OK. Mr. Griffith, you need to sharpen that answer. I recognize Foggy Bottom has a way of teaching people not to answer things yes and no, and clarity is helpful, particularly in the role to which you have been nominated.

Mr. White, staying on Iran but shifting to the Near East. I want to ask you about the ongoing talks between Israel and Lebanon. Under the Obama and Biden administrations, security assistance was politicized and often turned against our allies, and even on behalf of our adversaries. If confirmed, you would be charged with aligning our security assistance with American national security interests.

In Lebanon we have given billions of dollars over the years to Lebanese forces. We have even paid for their individual salaries. President Trump has made unprecedented progress in securing deals involving Lebanon. Just this week there was a conference right here in Washington between the United States, Israel, and Lebanon.

But the Lebanese government has refused to meet its obligations to disarm Hezbollah. Instead, our Israeli allies have been pushing ahead on an offensive to do what the Lebanese government will not, to eradicate the threat posed by Hezbollah. Of course, the Iranian regime is desperate to save Hezbollah. They have sought to link a ceasefire in the Gulf with a ceasefire in Lebanon. They want to save Hezbollah. I believe we must firmly reject any such link for exactly that reason.

But let me ask you this. In your judgment, why have we spent billions of dollars building up the Lebanese state if they are considered a part of Iran, and more specifically, the Iran conflict?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for the question, Senator, and thank you to you and your staff for meeting yesterday and even this morning on these very pressing issues.

I am not fully involved or read into a lot of the talks that are happening right now, but you rightfully point out many concerns that I understand that the President and the Secretary have when it comes to the Lebanese Armed Forces' ability to disarm Hezbollah.

And let me begin also by pointing out that the security relationship with Israel is iron clad. The President and the Secretary have been clear on that. I imagine that a large part of the prior security assistance going to Lebanon has been in the hopes that the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular, would be able to help in disarming Hezbollah on behalf of the Israelis. If confirmed I look forward to working with you and this committee to ensure that we preserve and protect Israel's qualitative military edge, among other things. This really feeds directly into that. So if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staff on this important issue.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Cruz.

Senator ROSEN.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, for holding this important hearing.

Thank you to everyone here today for your willingness to serve, and to Mr. Breslow and your family, it is so good to see you again, and I really appreciate your willingness to step forward.

So we are going to start with you, Mr. Breslow. As I said, it is good to see you again. As you know, over the past decade the U.S. has developed an increasingly fruitful security relationship with Cyprus. The U.S. helped fund the construction of a regional training hub, the Cyprus Center for Land, Open Seas, and Port Security, or affectionately known as CYCLOPS. This serves as a training center where our partners learn to detect and address the threats posed by smugglers seeking to sneak conventional weaponry, biological weapons, and even radioactive material through our seaports or airports—or through Cyprus seaports and airports. Excuse me.

Since its inception, CYCLOPS has proven itself to be a resounding success, building partner capacity supporting our regional security interests. So, Mr. Breslow, if confirmed, do I have your commitment that you will continue to work with me to ensure the U.S. continues its support for CYCLOPS?

Mr. BRESLOW. Thank you for your question, Senator.

Absolutely. I have read a lot about it and how they work with the State of New Jersey and do a lot of training. And I think it is very, very important. And other countries are also participating. And so I would be more than happy to work with you and this committee and anybody else to continue that great program.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. I really appreciate that.

I am going to move on now to the IAEA presence in Iran. We have got a little bit going on over there, too, so this one is for you, Mr. Griffith. I have always believed that Iran's nuclear ambitions and program, of course, are a threat not just to the region but also to the globe, which is why they can, of course, never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. I think everyone here is in agreement on that. We have said it over and over again.

So while last year's 12 day war may have seriously damaged Iran's nuclear program, it is clear it was not totally obliterated. The President claimed that. And so that end I am concerned that an exclusively kinetic strategy will not fully curb Iran's nuclear ambitions. We need a diplomatic solution that will translate tactical military gains into a durable political end state.

Mr. Griffith, yes or no. Do you think military means alone are sufficient to hopefully prevent Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear weapon?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Thank you, Senator, for your question. I—

Senator ROSEN. Yes or no, because I only have a few minutes, and I have different questions based on your answer. Do you think military means alone—

Mr. GRIFFITH. I am not in the position right now, in the role. I am not fully briefed in on anything.

Senator ROSEN. Do you have any opinions generally?

Mr. GRIFFITH. I would defer to the President and his national security team on those decisions.

Senator ROSEN. Well, if you would have answered yes I would have asked you this. Can you then explain why the nuclear threat from Iran persists even after the President said that we completely obliterated Iran's nuclear program last year? And do you think bombing Iran's nuclear facilities every 6 months is a tenable strategy to prevent the regime from acquiring a nuclear weapon? If you would have said yes. If you would have said no—because you did not want to answer, which is you are here to answer our questions.

We have a responsibility, among Armed Services and Foreign Relations, to our military, to our country, to the safety and security of the world. And so if you would have said no, I would have been really glad to hear that. Because if confirmed, what future role, if any, would you envision the IAEA playing to address the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear program, should a nuclear agreement be reached? So you were not able to answer that. Maybe we will have you come back and see if you can answer it later.

I want to move on to Mr. White and talk about the Sahel. Mr. White, the Administration has initiated diplomatic outreach to the ruling military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. They have lifted Russian military related sanctions on top Malian defense officials, and floated increased security cooperation to counterterrorist groups in the region.

So, Mr. White, what types of U.S. security cooperation, if any, would you advise offering to military juntas in the Sahel, and under what conditions, if any, and how would you approach counterterrorism assistance in the region where some governments have exhibited anti-Western behavior while simultaneously facing terrorist threats? This is important. I am the Ranking Member on the Counterterrorism Subcommittee. I appreciate your answers.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator.

I will point out, just kind of broadly, when it comes to our security assistance, and foreign assistance, in general, the Secretary and the President have directed us, at the State Department, to make sure that everything we do makes America safer, strong, more prosperous. That is our guiding principle.

Senator ROSEN. But I am asking you about the Sahel. We know that when terrorists are infiltrating other countries around the world, embedding themselves there, that probably makes us a little less safe, wouldn't you think? So could you just address issues in the Sahel, where I spoke about?

Mr. WHITE. Yes, absolutely.

Senator ROSEN. I understand the President's policies.

Mr. WHITE. Absolutely. When it comes to giving assistance to juntas, in particular, I mean, I think there are some legal constraints around things like that. So, of course, if confirmed, I would have to kind of examine those sorts of issues. But you rightfully point out that the President and the Secretary are committed to a counterterrorism agenda, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staff on how we can pursue those means, using security assistance and other tools.

Senator ROSEN. And I said security cooperation, which is maybe different than assistance. Thank you.

And just in time for Senator Kaine.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Rosen.

Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

Mr. White, I want to talk to you. I understand you were a submariner.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, sir. Thanks for the question.

Senator KAINE. What was the boat you were on?

Mr. WHITE. I was on the USS *Olympia* out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Los Angeles class.

Senator KAINE. Excellent. Well, I am going to ask you sort of a submariner question, because the Pol-Mil Bureau is responsible for processing licenses of defense exports and third party transfers, and within the AUKUS framework this community has been supportive of that, in a bipartisan way. A lot of items have been deregulated to speed transfers between the partners. The U.S. does maintain an Excluded Technology List that still requires licensing for transfer of some of these technologies to Australia and the U.K.

If confirmed, just describe kind of how you would approach the balance between safeguarding our most significant technologies while also strengthening the partnership.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator, and thank you to you and your staff for the opportunity to talk about this and other issues.

The President has been very clear—the U.S. Government is full speed ahead on AUKUS. If confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, you point out I will be in charge of a lot of the kind more Pillar II aspects of the AUKUS framework, including the ITAR exemption for the U.K. and Australia, which, thanks to Congress, has been a huge success. My understanding is we are approaching about 1,000 authorized users in the U.K. and Australia. It really is an example of what we can do, maybe more broadly, in our defense reform space.

But specifically for the U.K. and Australia, our closest allies, it really has been a huge success. My understanding is that about 80 percent of all defense trade between the U.K. and Australia is currently covered by the license exemption. So that means if you are an authorized user you don't have to come to the State Department for a license. Now, that remaining 20 percent that is really included on the Excluded Technology List, understand the NDAA has directed the U.S. Government to take a hard look at that. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the Department of War in order to pare that down. I completely agree, and the Presi-

dent and the Secretary agree, that we really need to be full steam ahead on AUKUS here.

So if confirmed, I do want to look for ways that we can improve the AUKUS framework, and a good way to do that is with the U.K. and Australia ITAR exemption.

Senator KAINE. I think that is what I was hoping to hear, and I am confident that you will do that. And I like the fact that you mentioned it is a little bit of an example. If we get this right, if we get the balance right with Australia and the U.K., there is not any reason that this could not be a template for other nations that we have the same degree of confidence in their both capacity and their ability to protect critical technology. So I appreciate that you are looking at it not only as an AUKUS focused initiative but also what it might teach us long run in terms of how we deal with allies.

I have just one other question, and that is this. In mid-March, the Trump administration used an emergency determination under the AECA to expedite arms sales to the UAE, Jordan, and Kuwait, without congressional review. Now, traditionally these kinds of transfer require a congressional review. There are some circumstances where time is of the essence, and so I think there is sort of an understanding here that in those instances things can happen even before congressional review.

But many of the items in this particular sale are going to take years to deliver to the countries. So do you know why was there an emergency authority used, and how do you assess this question of bypassing Congress on a transfer that is not likely to happen for a number of years?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you for that question, Senator. And if confirmed, I commit to absolutely looking to Congress for your vital oversight responsibilities, including the informal tiered review process. And it is my understanding that with a lot of these emergency notifications that some of them were already part of the tiered review process. So you are right. Some of them might not have been, but as a general rule, the Secretary laid out a detailed explanation of the specific emergencies for each of those notifications.

But I would say, broadly here, the U.S. Government and the President and the Secretary have been clear that we are going to expedite, to the max extent possible, to our allies and partners in the region that have been affected by Epic Fury and that are working closely, including a lot of our bases in the region, in support and defense of our U.S. servicemembers that are there. So my understanding is that a lot of this emergency notification, which is all in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act, was driven by a lot of the circumstances on the ground.

My understanding is some of the equipment has already actually been delivered or gotten onto contracts. So actually having that time did make a difference in some cases. In those cases where, sure, it might take years, which is a broader problem, but in many cases that is a signal to our allies and partners in the region that have been impacted by Iran's aggression in Epic Fury.

Senator KAINE. Well, I will just conclude and say we have got a good Chair and Ranking, and we have had during my entire tenure

here, whatever the partisan lineup, and I think they take this seriously. So when they get the notifications they do not sleep on them. They take them seriously. If it is something that does have to go ASAP, because of a defense exigency, we get that, but on items that are not going to be transferred for a while, I would just really urge you to kind of stick to the plan, get the notification to the key officials, and if they are not being quick enough then you can share that and we can get better. But I think that they have generally done a pretty good job of being prompt, and I would just encourage you to kind of honor that, please.

Senator RISCH. Senator Kaine, before you got here we had a spirited discussion about the delays that happened and whose fault it is. But look, there are four of us, obviously, in Congress that can say yea or nay. I have a very robust way of handling those. The Administration is doing a lot better. As you know, we get complaints all the time about this, and it is not right. We are continuing to work on that, and I think everybody is committed to doing that. I know Senator Shaheen and I have worked together on these things and have not had any problems at all. So thanks for bringing it up.

Senator Shaheen.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, yes, and I would reiterate what Senator Risch just said. And what I find really frustrating is that there are a lot of people around Capitol Hill who blame this committee and those of us who have to sign off on those notifications for the problem. And we are not the problem. It is the industrial base that is the problem, sad to say. So I hope that you will make an effort to correct the misinformation on that.

I have just one final question for Mr. Steggerda. Did I pronounce that correctly?

Mr. STEGGERDA. That was perfect, Ranking Member Shaheen.

Senator RISCH. Wait a minute.

[Laughter.]

Senator SHAHEEN. Only because Senator Risch—

Senator RISCH. You said it was perfect when I did it, and it was different than what she said.

Senator SHAHEEN. Senator Risch instructed me.

Mr. STEGGERDA. I will take your pronunciation. Thank you.

Senator SHAHEEN. Before I ask my question I just wanted to point out to both you and Mr. Griffith that we had a very informative hearing yesterday with Ambassador Waltz and Ambassador Bartos. And if you have not watched that I hope you will do that, if you are confirmed, because I think it is very instructive of how we can approach changes at the U.N. in ways that actually mean that it is more effective and efficient without denigrating some of the good work that has been done.

And on that point, one of the things that I raised yesterday that I want to raise with you, Mr. Steggerda, is the U.S. withdrawals from international organizations in Geneva. Many of those international organizations are responsible for setting global standards. And what we are doing in withdrawing is leaving the playing field to China, really, because it is China who has been coming in behind us and who is making the decisions. We are seeing that in terms of the global diplomatic footprint that China has around the

world, which we are not keeping up with. We are seeing it in terms of personnel at the United Nations, where our personnel is declining and China has increased. And it is all done in a way that gives China the ability, and the PRC the ability to make decisions when we are not at the table.

So I know that there is this assessment going on right now about which organizations we should continue membership in and which we may want to withdraw from. So are there any particular organizations that you would advise the Trump administration that we should withdraw from, and why, or stay in, and why?

Mr. STEGGERDA. Thank you, Ranking Member Shaheen, and thank you for the opportunity to meet your staff. We had an exhaustive discussion. And I also—

Senator SHAHEEN. Positive, I am sure.

Mr. STEGGERDA. And I also very much appreciated the chance to read the minority report a couple of weeks ago. I think the depth of the study on China's strategic pursuits was really informative, and I think it is going to be helpful for me to continue to have that in mind, if I am confirmed, and I make it to Mission Geneva.

In terms of China, it is not news to this committee that it presents a tremendous strategic challenge. And in Geneva, from my study, from my meetings to date, the preparations that I have already been undertaking, it is pretty clear that their pursuit of their strategic goals is pervasive, ranging from things like declaring themselves a developing country and the so called leader of the G-77, trying to get Chinese technology embedded into international standards in the STAs, trying to get Chinese nationals into the system, including in leadership positions.

I do understand the process of withdrawal, as we try to get the U.N. reoriented back toward its core mission. But in terms of undermining an ability to counter China's pursuit of its strategic interests, I am hopeful that it will not affect our ability to do that. I can tell you that I will be focused on that, should I be confirmed by the committee, and I will keep that in mind. But thank you for the question.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, thank you. And so should I assume that you do not have any organizations in mind now that you would recommend that we withdraw from?

Mr. STEGGERDA. Thank you, Ranking Member Shaheen.

I don't personally. I know there is an ongoing review. I have a sense of how they are approaching it, with the diligence and the care that the process demands, given the kind of broader goals. Obviously, I will know more if and when I get into the position. I will be happy to continue to collaborate with the committee on both sides. But as of this second, right now, I do not have a list of potentially other organizations that are on the potential list for withdrawal.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

With that we will conclude the hearing, and I am going to include in the record any letters of support or otherwise that we have received regarding these nominations. I will also note, for the information of the member of the committee, the record will remain

open until close of business tomorrow, April 17, for members to submit questions for the record or other matters for the record. If you get a question we would appreciate you get to it as soon as possible.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The information referenced above was not received at press time.]

Senator RISCH. With that, again, thank you to all of you. Thank you to your families for your willingness to serve. With that the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:03 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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### Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JOHN BRESLOW BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

*Question.* Mr. Breslow, the U.S. lifted the arms embargo on Cyprus in 2022 after nearly three decades, signaling a deepened security partnership.

Given Cyprus's geographic position at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa how is the administration thinking about Cyprus as a force multiplier for U.S. and NATO contingency planning in the Eastern Mediterranean?

Answer. Since the December 2018 signing of a Statement of Intent on bilateral security cooperation and the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, the U.S.-Republic of Cyprus (ROC) security relationship has deepened significantly. Our strengthened relationship includes training and exercises with the State of New Jersey through the State Partnership Program. I am pleased that the United States' security cooperation with the ROC is steadily expanding. Cyprus's strategic importance makes this partnership vital to American interests and to the broader transatlantic community. The ROC has proven to be a valued partner to the United States to assist U.S. citizens evacuating out of crisis areas, including in recent years. Although Cyprus is not a member of NATO, our cooperation is making the region more resilient and keeping America safe. If confirmed, I will work to build on these already solid and beneficial relationships.

*Question.* Cyprus, Israel, and Greece have developed a trilateral security and energy framework centered on Eastern Mediterranean gas development. The Eastern Med corridor has significant implications for European energy independence from Russia and as an alternative to the vulnerability posed by the Strait of Hormuz.

How central is Cyprus to our vision for linking the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean energy resources to European markets, and what role would you advocate the U.S. play to advance that partnership?

Answer. Since the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, the U.S.-ROC security relationship has deepened significantly. The Republic of Cyprus' alignment with the United States and our strong relations have earned the confidence of American companies like Chevron, ExxonMobil, IBM, PIMCO, Oracle, and Plug and Play to establish operations or expand their presence on the island. In November 2025, a 3+1 energy ministerial took place in Greece with the U.S. delegation led by National Energy Dominance Council co-chairs Secretaries Burgum and Wright. The leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting energy security and cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean, including through the Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center, as key to regional strategic stability and resilience. The Republic of Cyprus is opening its doors to trusted American companies and in the process, expanding our commercial ties. If confirmed, I would work to strengthen opportunities for American companies in the Republic of Cyprus, including American energy companies.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JOHN BRESLOW BY SENATOR CORY A. BOOKER

*International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR): In 2019, Congress came together in a bipartisan way to pass the Eastern Mediterranean Security*

*and Energy Partnership Act, which recalibrated American military, diplomatic, and economic policy toward the Eastern Mediterranean and lifted the decades-old U.S. embargo on Cyprus through a conditional, annual waiver under the ITAR for Cyprus's procurement of defense articles from the United States. Last year, I introduced bipartisan legislation to amend the 2019 Act to extend the current 1-year waiver to a 5-year period, reflecting the growing strength of partnership and providing greater predictability to expand U.S.-Cyprus security cooperation.*

*Question.* If confirmed, would you support the United States extending the annual ITAR waiver to a 5-year waiver for arms sales to Cyprus, while preserving the accountability measures Congress has put in place? Please provide an explanation for your answer.

*Answer.* In September 2025, the United States renewed a 1-year waiver of ITAR restrictions on the Republic of Cyprus. This was the fourth year in a row the United States fully waived the restrictions in accordance with the provisions in U.S. law. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Rubio, President Trump, and members of this committee on this issue.

*Question.* If confirmed, would you support fully repealing the ITAR restrictions on Cyprus? Please provide an explanation for your answer.

*Answer.* I have not been a part of these discussions previously. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Rubio, President Trump, and members of this committee on this issue.

*Question.* If confirmed, how do you plan to deepen this security relationship to ensure that we are not only advancing strategic interests, but also upholding the standards of transparency, financial integrity, and democratic governance that are central to American foreign policy?

*Answer.* Since the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, the U.S.-Republic of Cyprus (ROC) security relationship has deepened significantly. The ROC's Western alignment and our strong relations have earned the confidence of American companies. The ROC has made strides to improve the transparency and accountability of its financial system. It recognized the vulnerability of its banking systems and has made improvements to its anti-money laundering regulations and is closely cooperating with the United States to combat illicit finance. Positive, long-term economic development requires a strong and well-regulated banking sector. It is vital illicit actors know Cyprus is not open for their business. The Central Bank of Cyprus has increased transparency in the anti-money laundering efforts over recent years. If confirmed, I will continue to support the ROC government's efforts to make progress in this area.

*Question.* How do you see Cyprus contributing to a broader American strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean—particularly in strengthening regional stability, deepening cooperation with European partners, and advancing long-term peace and security in the Middle East?

*Answer.* The Republic of Cyprus plays an important role in the Eastern Mediterranean, contributes to regional stability, and promotes economic cooperation. The Republic of Cyprus maintains a trilateral partnership with Israel and Greece as part of the 3+1 mechanism. The Republic of Cyprus also seeks to play a role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and colleagues in the interagency to support robust ties among the United States and Greece, Israel, and the Republic of Cyprus, as envisioned in the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019.

*Cyprus-Greece-Israel, and the US (3+1 Alliance): The United States' participation in the cooperative framework with Cyprus, Greece, and Israel—the "3+1 alliance" represents an important effort to bring together democratic partners in the region. This framework is not a formal alliance, but it reflects a shared commitment to dialogue, coordination, and peaceful cooperation on security, energy, and economic issues.*

*Question.* In your view, what is the strategic importance of the United States' participation in the 3+1 alliance, particularly as we navigate complex regional dynamics, including our NATO commitments and the broader U.S. interests in the Eastern Mediterranean?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and colleagues in the interagency to support robust ties among the United States and Greece, Israel, and the Republic of Cyprus, as envisioned in the Eastern Mediterranean Security

and Energy Partnership Act of 2019. I plan to promote Cyprus's efforts to advance security and stability in the region.

*Question.* Do you believe this 3+1 framework should remain a flexible, informal mechanism?

*Answer.* I am not currently a part of the Administration and have not been a part of any discussions about the 3+1 Framework. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Rubio, President Trump, and members of this committee on this issue.

*Question.* What would be the potential risks and benefits of taking that next step to formalize the 3+1 framework?

*Answer.* I am not currently a part of the Administration and have not been a part of any discussions about the 3+1 Framework. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Rubio, President Trump, and members of this committee on this issue.

*Question.* If confirmed, how would you work to ensure that this partnership not only advances energy and economic cooperation, but also serves as a force for de-escalation and long-term stability in the Eastern Mediterranean?

*Answer.* I am pleased that the United States' security cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus is steadily deepening. The Republic of Cyprus's strategic importance makes this partnership vital to American interests and to the broader transatlantic community. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and colleagues in the interagency to support robust ties among the United States and the Republic of Cyprus, Israel, and Greece, as envisioned in the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 and to promote the Republic of Cyprus's efforts to bring security and stability to the region.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO FLEET WHITE BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*Question.* There are concerns that the interagency may not require a robust security plan for the proposed sale of F-35s to Saudi Arabia, which has a growing security relationship with China. It will be notable if any such plan is less intensive and comprehensive than that required in 2006 of Pakistan for F-16s (which is still in effect).

What is the state of the interagency discussions on a security protection plan?

*Answer.* It is my understanding that, as with all F-35 transfers, the United States, through the Department of War, will exercise the highest and strictest scrutiny to protect the technology of our most advanced fighter aircraft. Any F-35 transfer requires a thorough assessment of the physical and technical security requirements necessary to safeguard this cutting-edge technology. I understand these assessments are already under way.

*Question.* If confirmed, what kinds of protections would you recommend?

*Answer.* As with all F-35 customers, the United States will transfer F-35s only when identified basing locations are fully certified to be compliant with U.S. standards and a security plan is in place and implemented. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with Congress on the program's progress, in conjunction with the Department of War, in a classified setting.

*Question.* The Department of Defense reportedly plans to direct defense contractors to redirect some near-term production of munitions that the U.S. needs to replenish its stockpile post-Iran away from foreign customers to DoD.

Have assessments been done as to which countries' purchases will be delayed and what is your impression of the impact this policy will have?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I look forward to coordinating with the Department of War to ensure defense assets are allocated to provide maximum protection for U.S. national security interests and foreign policy implications.

*Question.* Can you better define for us just what "the catalog" of defense articles and services will be under the America First Arms Transfer Strategy, and whether it will list some but not all articles and services? Who decides, and who decides what companies will be represented?

*Answer.* The Executive Order directs the Department of War to develop a catalog of prioritized systems. In accordance with the Executive Order, this catalog will like-

ly be an internal tool of the U.S. Government to help promote the defense articles most closely aligned with the core objectives of the America First Arms Transfer Strategy. The Department of War is responsible for creating and maintaining the catalog.

*Question.* The State Department responsibility for review of CCL proposed export licenses has been moved from ACN to PM. What are the specific standards that PM will use to review such proposed licenses?

*Answer.* Proposed arms transfers, including license requests from the firearms industry, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis consistent with the President's Conventional Arms Transfer Policy of April 19, 2018, to include assessments of the diplomatic, security, economic, human rights, and international humanitarian law considerations associated with any given sale.

*Question.* Will you commit to keeping the Committee periodically informed as to the numbers of licenses, number and types of firearms, and their destinations, that PM reviews, the final outcome of that review, and whether an export license was ultimately issued?

*Answer.* Items not described on the U.S. Munitions List are generally regulated by the Department of Commerce's Export Administration Regulations. My understanding is that the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security is responsible for the adjudication of 500 series firearms and may refer licenses to the Department of State for a foreign policy review. The Department defers to the Department of Commerce in providing information to Congress.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO FLEET WHITE BY SENATOR TIM KAINE

*Question.* Please confirm that, if confirmed, you will comply with statutory requirements to promptly report to Congress any end-use violation involving an FMS-affiliated article.

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* Has any U.S. security assistance been conditioned or otherwise provided by the State Department to any foreign government to incentivize support for the U.S.'s removal to those countries of people who are not citizens of those countries?

*Answer.* No security assistance overseen by the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has been approved that incentivizes support for the U.S.'s removal to those countries of people who are not citizens of those countries.

*Question.* How is civilian harm reporting integrated into the decision process for licensing agreements?

*Answer.* As outlined in President Trump's Conventional Arms Transfer Policy, PM accounts for human rights and international humanitarian law considerations during the license review process.

*Question.* Who is collecting and integrating this information?

*Answer.* PM conducts a case-by-case review of all arms transfers, including licensing agreements, consistent with the President's Conventional Arms Transfer (CAT) Policy of April 19, 2018. CAT policy reviews account for several considerations, including U.S. national security, relationships with partners and allies, and human rights and international humanitarian law, among others. PM coordinates with the Office of Foreign Assistance Oversight, the relevant regional bureaus, and teams at our embassies who receive information, including information related to violations of human rights, to compile a final foreign policy and national security review prior to the issuance of licensing agreements.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO TODD STEGGERDA BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has grown increasingly aggressive in its engagements and strategic placement of its nationals within the United Nations system. In contrast, though America leads more technical bodies and humanitarian organizations, we struggle to place our citizens in both junior and senior positions. How do you plan to counter this aggression?

Answer. I will continue the Administration's efforts to support qualified U.S. candidates in both appointed positions and elections, at all levels, in consultation with the White House, to promote America First principles. I also look forward to increasing outreach to U.S. citizens already serving in the U.N. system at all levels to better advocate for reducing inefficiencies in U.N. hiring processes.

If confirmed, I will work with our partners and allies to match and check China's influence across the U.N. system, push for greater transparency in the hiring process at all levels, and champion reforms that improve efficiency and effectiveness in line with American values.

*Question.* In Geneva, you will work with many technical bodies, each unique in membership, operation, and mandate. If confirmed, how will you approach reform and ensure each body is undertaking serious efforts to meet today's benchmarks?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to implement accountability measures for agencies with policies that threaten American sovereignty, our national interests, or those of our allies. I will also ensure strong U.S. influence and leadership in those agencies that are critical to U.S. national security and commercial interests.

The United States serves in senior positions and on governing bodies at several key Geneva-based specialized and technical agencies, allowing us to perform a critical oversight function and advocate for reforms in a targeted, meaningful way. I will advocate for the elimination of excessive employment benefits offered by the United Nations, for organizations to return to their core mandates, and to aggressively promote Americans in leadership roles.

*Question.* Trump has maintained the right to withdraw as an option to protect American interests and to signal to the U.N. that we will not tacitly allow waste, fraud, and abuse to continue under our noses. Do you commit to holding each agency accountable and ensuring they are meeting the criteria to be worthy of U.S. participation?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, my top priority will be to ensure that the work of the international organizations in Geneva advances the values and interests of the American people. That means promoting policies that protect our sovereignty, promote prosperity, and deliver results—and help the U.N. live up to its potential.

*The U.S. withdrew from the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) because it had become more of a liability than an asset for U.S. global health security. Still, the President has said that he could envision re-engaging with the WHO if it made good on promises to reform.*

*Question.* In your view, what would the WHO need to do in order to restore the confidence of the American people?

Answer. The WHO has lost the confidence of the American people. It proved to be an ineffective partner in handling global health crises, refused to implement internal reforms, and failed to demonstrate political independence from the political agenda of WHO Member States. The United States effectuated its withdrawal from WHO on January 22, 2026, pursuant to the President's Executive Order. The United States continues to serve as a leader in global health through our bilateral health agreements and commitment to life-saving humanitarian aid.

While I am not in a position to hypothesize today on what the WHO would need to do to reform and restore the confidence of the American people, if confirmed, I commit to working with the interagency and global partners to safeguard Americans' health.

*Question.* What specific reforms would need to be enacted before the U.S. could even consider rejoining?

Answer. As a private citizen, I am not in a position to say if the U.S. will rejoin.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure the United Nations continues to prioritize the public health of all Americans. I will do my part to implement the America First Global Health Strategy to save millions of lives and stop the global spread of disease, and work to identify partners to assume necessary activities previously undertaken by the WHO.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO TODD STEGGERDA BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*U.S. Funding*

*Question.* Congress recently provided in its Fiscal Year 2026 enacted appropriations sufficient funding for the U.S. to pay our dues to U.N. and international organizations. If confirmed, do you commit to supporting the payment of our U.N. dues in full and in a timely manner?

*Answer.* The U.N. needs to take serious steps to reform. If it can demonstrate that it is getting back to basics and focusing on core mandates, only then should the U.S. be willing to make payments.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure full transparency and accountability for U.S. taxpayer funds provided to the U.N. organizations in Geneva, and ensure those organizations take additional steps to reform and carry out their core mandates.

Ultimately, my goal is to ensure U.S. contributions are effective, advance our interests, and protect American sovereignty.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. PRESTON WELLS GRIFFITH III BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* The Trump Administration is focused on enacting lasting reform across the United Nations. How will you work to ensure U.N. agencies in Vienna are transparent, accountable, and best serve the interests of the American people?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will work closely with allies and traditional and non-traditional partners to ensure that Vienna-based agencies reflect principles we share—transparency, accountability, and respect for sovereignty. I will aggressively promote Americans in leadership roles who champion these values, and advocate that organizations return to core mandates and founding purposes.

Our first duty is to the American people to ensure taxpayer dollars are invested wisely and effectively. International organizations based in Vienna should maintain a zero nominal growth budget and promote best management practices in any reviews on salaries, allowances, and staff benefits. If confirmed, I will explore ways to achieve greater efficiencies and cost savings across Vienna-based agencies including shorter, more modern meetings, eliminating excessive employment benefits, and increased restrictions on business class travel.

Ultimately, I will work to bring the U.N. “back to basics”—hold it accountable, improve its transparency and effectiveness, and advance our priorities.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. PRESTON WELLS GRIFFITH III BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*Ukraine*

*Question.* Since September 2022, an IAEA expert team has been present at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) in Ukraine to assess safety conditions. Russian military forces captured the six-reactor plant on March 4, 2022, and have occupied it since then. Continued military operations surrounding the plant have resulted in multiple problems with electricity supply for continued cooling of the reactors, which are shut down.

Would you use your position in the IAEA BOG to call upon Russia to vacate the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant and would you support or sponsor a BOG resolution to that effect?

*Answer.* The United States continues to provide political, financial, and technical support to the IAEA’s work in Ukraine, with an emphasis on ensuring continued nuclear safety. I will not, however, take actions that could jeopardize ongoing peace talks.

If confirmed, I will work collaboratively with other Member States to strengthen the IAEA’s ability to undertake this unprecedented mission in Ukraine, both during and after the conflict.

*Question.* While affirming U.S. support for IAEA monitoring in Ukraine, the United States voted against a resolution, “Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine” at the most recent IAEA Board of Governors meeting in early March. Do you agree with that vote and if so, why?

Answer. I understand the United States voted against the most recent resolution on Ukraine at the March IAEA Board of Governors meeting because it was duplicative and would not have helped achieve peace between Ukraine and Russia. The vote focused on U.S. efforts to streamline bureaucracy at executive board meetings. However, I understand the U.S. delegation underscored our continued support for the IAEA's important work in Ukraine.

*U.S. Assessed Contributions and IAEA Budget*

*Question.* Every year since 1981, the U.S. has delayed paying its assessed dues to the IAEA for three-quarters of the IAEA's fiscal year, which starts on January 1. This has resulted in the IAEA—an agency vital to U.S. and global national security—being starved for 25 percent of its operating funds for most of its fiscal year. Would you personally be supportive of the U.S. resuming its assessed contribution at the beginning of the IAEA's fiscal year?

Answer. The IAEA does critical work in the areas of nuclear safeguards, safety, security, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy—work that is essential to U.S. national security interests. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the IAEA has the resources it needs to be able to carry out its mandate.

*Question.* Does the IAEA have the budget and personnel it needs to meet increased demands to advise and monitor countries' nuclear safety, security and safeguards?

Answer. I understand UNVIE regularly engages the IAEA on management of the agency's resources and staff through active participation in the IAEA governing body processes.

The IAEA regularly evaluates and reports to member states on its resources management, including through annual reports from the Director General, the Director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and IAEA's external auditor.

If confirmed, I will work with UNVIE and the broader Department to push for meaningful reform to address personnel costs in the UN's overall compensation structure—the “UN Common System.”

*U.S. Priorities at the IAEA*

*Question.* Do you think that, if confirmed, you should press the IAEA BOG to pressure countries like China and Pakistan to increase pressure on North Korea regarding stopping its nuclear weapons program and returning to IAEA safeguards inspections?

*Question.* The IAEA has played a key role in monitoring the DPRK's nuclear program. I support the U.S. commitment to the complete denuclearization of the DPRK.

I support the Administration's position for the United States to remain open to dialogue with the DPRK without preconditions. If confirmed, I will encourage allies to do the same.

*Question.* If confirmed, you will also represent the U.S. before the Wassenaar Arrangement, an institution that many believe is increasingly sclerotic and irrelevant to current export security challenges. What do you think needs to be improved or eliminated from the Wassenaar Arrangement?

Answer. The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) is the bedrock of the international export controls architecture for conventional arms and dual-use technologies, as the Arrangement's control lists underpin the national control lists of the United States and other key supplier countries.

The United States is working closely with our allies and partners to enhance the WA's effectiveness and implement multilateral export controls that keep pace with rapid technological advancements.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. PRESTON WELLS GRIFFITH III BY SENATOR TED CRUZ

*Iran and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*

*President Trump has required several conditions as part of any nuclear agreement with Iran, including that Iran cease all domestic enrichment activities. Iranian regime officials have countered that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a 'right to enrich' uranium under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a reference to Article IV of the Treaty.*

*The Iranian assertion is false and contradicts the long-standing policy of the United States.*

*Article IV of the Treaty grants signatories a right to “research, production and use of nuclear energy” provided that work is done “in conformity with Articles I and II,” i.e., that the work not be used to pursue nuclear weapons. It has been the long-standing policy of the United States that the Treaty is silent on enrichment. Further, Iran is not entitled to Article IV’s right to peaceful nuclear energy. The IAEA has found Iran in non-compliance with its NPT obligations, and the United Nations Security Council has passed multiple resolutions acting under Chapter VII of the U.N. charter prohibiting Iran from engaging in enrichment activities and imposing sanctions for violations of those prohibitions.*

*Please answer the following questions—*

*Question.* Do you assess that Iran has a right to enrich uranium pursuant to the NPT? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* No, Iran does not have an automatic right to enrich uranium pursuant to the NPT. The NPT guarantees the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with obligations under Articles I and II of the Treaty. The Treaty itself does not guarantee the right to enrich uranium.

Pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1737, Iran is currently legally obliged to suspend enrichment-related activities.

*Question.* Do you assess that the NPT provides signatories with a right to enrich uranium? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* No, the NPT does not expressly provide signatories an automatic right to enrich uranium. Furthermore, the U.N. can prohibit any enrichment activity by resolution, as accomplished with respect to Iran via U.N. Security Council Resolution 1737.

*Question.* Do you assess that Iran is entitled to benefit from nuclear technology pursuant to Article IV of the NPT? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* Under the NPT, the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy is conditioned by compliance with Articles I and II of the Treaty. If Iran were found to be in violation of either Article, then it would not be entitled to the rights under Article IV. Additionally, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1737 suspends Iran’s ability to conduct “all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development.”

*Question.* Do you assess that Iran is entitled to benefit from nuclear technology pursuant to any agreement or authority other than the NPT? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* No. I am not aware of any other agreement or authority that would entitle a country to benefit from nuclear technology akin to Article IV of the NPT.

*Question.* Do you assess that Iran is a member in good standing of the NPT? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* No, I do not assess Iran to be in good standing with its obligations under the NPT. I would not consider a treaty violator to be in good standing of said treaty.

*Question.* Do you assess that Iran’s past possession of the Nuclear Archive seized by Israel in 2019, including the materials in the Archive relevant to the development of nuclear weapons, to constitute non-compliance by Iran of its obligations under the NPT? Answer yes or no, then explain.

*Answer.* I am not aware of the specifics with respect to the documents contained in the Nuclear Archive. However, if confirmed, I will review and assess those documents together with relevant Departments and agencies, and if appropriate, would be happy to come back to brief you or your staff when that assessment is complete.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO HON. PRESTON WELLS GRIFFITH III BY SENATOR CORY A. BOOKER

*Iran’s Nuclear Materials: The Trump Administration has repeatedly stated that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon remains a core national security objective of the United States. That objective has been consistently articulated, including in the context of ongoing military operations directed at Iran’s nuclear and missile capabilities.*

*Question.* In your view, what role, if any, should the United States play in the physical acquisition or control of Iranian nuclear materials, as opposed to containment, monitoring, or international oversight?

*Answer.* The United States will keep the IAEA focused on holding Iran accountable to its IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement, which is a requirement under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The United States will not allow the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran to destabilize the region.

If confirmed, I will coordinate with other Missions to support maximum pressure efforts through every available multilateral channel.

*Question.* If confirmed, what specific approach would you recommend to the Administration to ensure the verification, monitoring, and long-term accounting of Iran's nuclear program under conditions of incomplete access or degraded infrastructure?

*Answer.* President Trump has been clear: The United States will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.

If confirmed, I will work with key allies to implement international sanctions and restrictions on Iran that were reinstated after the snapback mechanism was invoked last year, consistent with National Security Presidential Memorandum 2.

I would also work with the strong team at UNVIE to keep the IAEA Board of Governors focused on holding Iran accountable to its NPT safeguards obligations and applicable UNSC resolution obligations.

I will also collaborate with other U.S. Missions to the U.N. to implement President Trump's maximum pressure policy, including advocating for the U.N. Security Council to spotlight the many threats posed by Iran to international peace and security.

*Fusion Energy: New Jersey is at the forefront of fusion research and innovation, driving the future of clean energy. Fusion energy can become the next major American energy technology export, however that outcome depends on international regulatory approaches that adapt to new technological developments.*

*Question.* If confirmed, will you work with leaders in fusion science to ensure that the IAEA is a catalyst for fusion deployment?

*Answer.* I understand that the Department of State is actively engaged on fusion issues and works closely with the Department of Energy to promote American economic competitiveness and innovation on fusion technologies. Within UNVIE, I commit to continue this collaboration and promote America's fusion enterprise at IAEA and with Vienna based industry. If confirmed, I also commit to following up with you and our staff on the issue, if desired.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO ADAM CASSADY BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* If confirmed, how will you integrate CDP's original statutory cyber functions with its new expanded responsibilities related to science and tech policy? China is seeking to leverage opportunities such as hosting APEC this year and World Radio Conference in Shanghai in 2027 to shore up international support for its preferred technical standards, which poses significant risks to U.S. industry competitiveness and cross-border data security.

*Answer.* The integration of science and technology policy into CDP has increased collaboration, strengthened focus, and reduced overlap on these critical topics. If confirmed, I will continue to ensure that the Department's work in these policy areas continues to grow, is well-resourced, and remains a priority. CDP will continue to lead on preparation for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference and is materially contributing to APEC topics related to cyber, digital, and technology policy. The United States must lead on shaping technology standards in these and other multilateral venues.

*Question.* What risks do adversary nations such as China and Russia pose to U.S. cybersecurity? How should the U.S. work with allies and partners to protect our national interests in cyberspace?

*Answer.* Adversary nations pose a substantial risk to the security of the United States in the cyber domain. The United States works closely with allies and partners to confront these threats across a range of collaborative efforts. If confirmed,

I will work to support and enhance this collaboration to further U.S. national security interests, protect Americans, and support American companies.

*Question.* In your view, what role should CDP play in coordinating international diplomacy on standards setting at the United Nations and other international organizations?

Answer. CDP is enhancing representation of the United States at global standards-setting bodies, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Inter-American Telecommunication Commission; 3d Generation Partnership Project (3GPP); and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The United States is represented by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission. CDP coordinates with ANSI on a regular basis, and leverages its technical assistance to deploy ANSI experts, to ensure U.S. national and economic equities are represented in key critical and emerging technology committees.

*Question.* If confirmed, what will be your priorities for pushing back on China's growing leadership in international standards setting and the risks its leadership poses to U.S. industry?

Answer. The United States recognizes that technical standards are vital to national and economic security and is committed to supporting and enhancing U.S. representation to counter undue influence by adversaries within international standards-setting forums. The U.S. is strengthening American engagement and leadership at global standards-setting bodies through more vigorous and frequent participation, improved interagency collaboration, and promotion of vital, fair procedural reforms.

CDP also deploys its technical assistance to build the capacity of partner governments to participate in standards setting institutions to support and advocate for technical standards that are aligned with American interests. If confirmed, I will continue to work closely with industry and likeminded countries to ensure American interests are protected and advanced in these forums.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO ADAM CASSADY BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*Question.* The State Department's reorganization split the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP) across multiple offices. One of these is a new Bureau for Emerging Threats, which absorbed a significant amount of cyber and critical and emerging technology talent from CDP, however, the bipartisan Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2022 outlines that CDP's Ambassador-at-large should "serve as the principal cyberspace policy official within the senior management of the Department of State and as the advisor to the Secretary of State for cyberspace and digital issues," including by "[representing] the Secretary in interagency efforts to develop and advance Federal Government cyber priorities and activities, including efforts . . . to deter and counter cyber adversaries."

If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that CDP's mission adheres to its congressional mandate?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to ensuring that CDP's mission adheres to its congressional mandate.

*Question.* How will you ensure that CDP maintains its leadership on cyber and critical and emerging technologies—including quantum and biotechnology—at the Department of State and within the interagency?

Answer. The reorganization of the Department of State has placed the leadership for critical and emerging technologies under the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy. If confirmed to this position, I am fully committed to ensuring that continued leadership on these issues, including specifically quantum and biotechnology, remains a priority. This includes active engagement and leadership of international groupings that focus on these technologies. I will also continue to partner with allies to strengthen pharmaceutical supply chains, promote the onshoring of critical medicine manufacturing into the United States, and create the partnerships that will strengthen our biotechnology infrastructure for research, development, manufacturing, and scaling of commercial applications.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO ADAM CASSADY BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

*Question.* If confirmed, how would you use this role to push back on the EU's extraterritorial application of the AI Act, and how would you ensure the United States—rather than the EU—is setting the baseline for international AI governance standards?

*Answer.* I share your concerns, Senator, about the EU AI Act and other restrictive EU digital regulations. If confirmed, I will consistently press the EU to refrain from excessive regulations that negatively affect U.S. companies and will direct CDP to continue to work with the U.S. interagency and U.S. companies to advocate for meaningful and substantive changes to address regulatory burdens in the EU.

*Question.* How would you articulate the U.S. position in bilateral and multilateral forums where the EU's precautionary regulatory model is increasingly being adopted as the global default, particularly by developing nations and international standards bodies?

*Answer.* As the global leader in technology, the United States can share our own example of how cutting red tape can unleash innovation. In contrast, innovative companies operating in the EU are hindered at every stage by inconsistent and restrictive regulations, as highlighted in the European Commission's own Draghi report. CDP can leverage its bilateral and multilateral engagements to encourage allied countries to prioritize approaches that foster the development of technology, bolster economic growth, and defend national sovereignty, while promoting the U.S. approach to technology policy that fosters human flourishing.

*Question.* If confirmed as Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, how will you use this role to advance U.S. interests in international spectrum negotiations, and what is your assessment of Huawei's continued influence in telecom infrastructure in developing nations?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will use my role to accelerate U.S. preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27) so that we have unified U.S. positions and proposals for the conference early that I will then advocate for around the world. As the President recognized in his memorandum, Winning the 6G Race, diplomatic engagement to build a coalition of industry and foreign partners to ensure America's leadership in advanced telecoms development is key.

Huawei continues to maintain a significant footprint in telecommunications infrastructure across many markets, driven by early entry, CCP-backed financing, and turnkey solutions. However, Huawei's influence is neither fixed nor irreversible. If confirmed, I will work with allies and likeminded partners to support informed decisionmaking by expanding access to trusted suppliers, and leveraging U.S. strengths in software, cloud, and standards-setting to help countries build secure, resilient, and future-ready networks.