

NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, Scott, Shaheen, Coons, 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.

Thank you all for coming today. This is a public hearing, and I will state again for the record we are glad to have you, but this is an official government hearing, and as such interruptions we have a zero, zero, zero tolerance policy on interruptions or attempts to communicate with either the witnesses or members of the committee.

So other than that, we love your appearance here, and we sincerely appreciate you coming and watching.

So we have six nominees this morning—important nominees—and we have a lot of things going on in the Senate this morning. We have a short week and a lot of work to get done.

And so we do have three Senators who are going to introduce the—some of the nominees but since they cannot be here the introduction will go into the record.

But we want you to know that Senator Rick Scott was here for Mr. Kaploun and for Bernardo Navarro, Senator Budd was here for Darryl Nirenberg and Senator Tim Scott for Melissa Argyros. I am sorry, I cannot—

[Laughter.]

Senator RISCH. Argyros. Close, huh? All right.

All right. In any event, those introductions, which I can assure you are very nice, will be put into the record, and they have said good things about you.

With that, the way this is going to go this morning I am going to make a few opening remarks. The Ranking Member will make some opening remarks.

Then we are going to open it up for you to make a couple minutes of introduction for yourself and tell us about the great and glo-

rious things you are going to do, and then we will open it up for questions.

So with that, I am going to start with you, Ms. Argyros, even though it is the toughest one to pronounce. That is why I am starting here.

If confirmed, you will come to your post as Ambassador to Latvia at a critical time. Russian provocations against NATO are on the rise as we all know, both by testing our military defenses and spreading propaganda to undermine our military defenses and undermining our free societies.

Fortunately, Latvia has set a strong example for our European allies in shoring up their defenses and adapting to new security challenges, and the U.S. remains an important and committed partner in helping them face these threats on the front line of NATO.

I look forward to hearing how you will work with our friends in Latvia to advance our security cooperation and further bolster NATO.

Ms. Bruce, by now you have probably heard that I am no fan of the United Nations. I think we both understand that the U.N. has taken advantage of the American taxpayer for far too long.

I hope we will hear from you today on how, as deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, you will work with Ambassador Waltz, who is doing a great job, to reform the organization.

In particular, I hope you can help course correct the U.N. from the horrible antisemitic path it is on and return the Security Council to its core mandate of maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. Kaploun, since October 7 we have seen a historic rise in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. and the globe. But like you, I believe that everyone no matter their religious beliefs deserves to live a life free from discrimination and fear.

If confirmed as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism this will be one of your greatest tasks. I look forward to hearing more about your goals for this position and how we can support you in the fight against antisemitism.

Mr. Navarro, in 2026 the United States and Peru will celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations. If confirmed as ambassador you will be charged with furthering this strong relationship and managing the challenges. I am particularly concerned about Chinese malign influence and production of cocaine.

I am glad Secretary Rubio has spoken with the president of Peru to reaffirm the need to dismantle transnational criminal organizations that spearhead the production of drugs.

Mr. Navarro, I look forward to hearing your plans to strengthen relations with Peru while pushing back on that issue and the issues that plague our—that country.

Mr. Nirenberg, as you know, Romania plays a critical role in deterring Russia and will be essential to countering Russian aggression against NATO allies. Romania is a steadfast partner of the United States and Europe and time and again has played a crucial role in advancing our interests abroad.

To keep Romania and our allies closely aligned with the U.S. it is important we use positive reinforcement to incentivize their cooperation.

If you are confirmed to be ambassador you will be responsible for maintaining this strong and beneficial bilateral relationship as broader U.S. policy toward Europe continues to evolve.

I am confident your Romanian counterparts will be eager to deepen our cooperation.

Mr. Yeaw, your nomination to Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Arms Control and Nonproliferation arrives not a moment too soon. We live with an unprecedented level of nuclear threat, but our arms control architecture is outdated and cannot meet these challenges.

Russia's nuclear triad is moving rapidly toward full mobilization, modernization. It has suspended its New START obligations, and it continues to test and develop nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, China is racing to nuclear parity with us and refuses to come to the table for talks. With the expiration of New START in February we must use this chance to lead on any new arms control negotiations.

I look forward to hearing your plans to fully commit the U.S. to nuclear deterrence and ensure we can match our adversaries.

Thank you again to all of you and particularly to your families. We know they share in the sacrifices you make to do these jobs, and we deeply, deeply appreciate it.

With that, the distinguished Ranking Member.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JEANNE SHAHEEN,
RANKING MEMBER, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to all of our nominees today, to your families, and to your supporters who are here with you.

I want to begin, Mr. Nirenberg, with some of the comments that the Chairman made because last month the Pentagon announced that it would withdraw troops from Romania. And the statement said, quote, "This is not an American withdrawal from Europe or a signal of lessened commitment to NATO in Article 5."

But as we know, actions speak louder than words, and for those of us on both sides of the aisle who see the danger that Russia poses to Europe this is a very concerning development.

Romania is a critical ally along the Black Sea, and it hosts key U.S. military assets including the Aegis Ashore Ballistic Missile Defense System. Romania has helped keep Americans safer from missile threats and is more exposed to Russia when U.S. troop levels are cut.

Yet Romania, which meets its NATO obligations and supports major U.S. military sales, is losing U.S. troops while Hungary under Orban is still buying Russian gas and faces no such consequences.

The Romanian deputy defense minister has argued the decision should be overturned. Republican Chairmen Wicker and Rogers of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees have spoken against this decision. I agree with their view.

Mr. Nirenberg, if confirmed you will be posted to our embassy in Romania as Putin escalates strikes in Ukraine and drones enter NATO airspace.

Our allies fear the United States is pulling back. Drawing down U.S. troops in the face of Russian aggression does not sound like peace through strength to me. It sounds like an American retreat.

If President Trump wants leverage to end the war in Ukraine this decision signals just the opposite.

Ms. Argyros—hopefully, that was pronounced correctly—you have also been nominated to an Eastern flank country in Latvia. Latvia borders Russia and Belarus and faces a real and immediate threat.

If confirmed, how will you reassure Latvians that the U.S. can be counted on, and what can you do to project American power in a way that will deter those in the Kremlin who question our commitment to the Baltic states?

As Russia escalates across Europe the risks of miscalculation grow, making credible arms control even more important.

Mr. Yeaw, you have been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary to the Bureau of Arms Control and Nonproliferation. It is a new bureau that has been created by the Trump administration's restructuring earlier this year.

This committee has not yet been briefed on the new bureau's structure or scope—I hope you have as the nominee—but that is a gap that the department should fix and fix promptly.

Given the President's statement that the U.S. will resume nuclear weapons testing, the question is how serious is this Administration about working to deescalate nuclear tensions.

Ms. Bruce, you have been nominated to be the deputy representative to the U.N. mission to the United Nations working with Ambassador Waltz. At the same time, the Administration's failure to pay U.N. dues in full is weakening peacekeeping when global stability is already under strain.

If confirmed, how will you address the risks these cuts create for U.S. interests?

And Mr. Kaploun, if confirmed you will serve as the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Fighting antisemitism requires bipartisan effort, especially today when the increase in antisemitic attacks and comments in the U.S. and around the world have increased so dramatically.

If confirmed, how will you work across the aisle and with diverse religious communities to keep this from becoming a partisan issue?

Finally, Mr. Navarro, you have been nominated to serve as Ambassador to Peru. If confirmed, you will serve at a U.S. post facing significant unrest as the Administration escalates tensions in the region. What steps will you take to support stability and democratic governance in Peru?

I look forward to hearing from all of you, and thank you again for your willingness to consider being nominated and serve the country.

Thank you.

Senator Risch. Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

We will now hear from our witnesses and if you would keep it to a couple of minutes, please, we would appreciate that. Your full

statement, which I know many of you have that is longer than 2 minutes, will be included in the record and available for any Senator who wants to review it.

So with that, we are going to start with Ms. Argyros, and please, the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF MELISSA ARGYROS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF
LATVIA**

Ms. ARGYROS. Chairman Risch, Senator Shaheen, and distinguished members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today.

I am honored to be the nominee for the U.S. Ambassador to Latvia, and I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me.

I want to thank my family and friends who continue to support me in every imaginable way. I want to particularly thank my parents who taught me the value of hard work, the importance of service, and humility.

I have spent many years working in our family real estate company, and I am grateful to the people who have dedicated their lives to making our company a success.

I currently run our family foundation where we support programs that focus on education, youth development, and the arts.

If confirmed, my first priority will be the safety and security of U.S. citizens in Latvia.

Second, I would work to counter threats to our common security. Latvia has been an excellent partner to the United States, and our relationship is based on our shared goals, interests, and values.

I would focus to strengthen our security partnership and support the peace through strength that President Trump has called for. I would aim to improve the depth of the U.S. economic relationship with Latvia.

Economic stability and prosperity are key components of security, and we can build our current trade relationship into an engine of growth.

If confirmed, I would look forward to working with the talented staff at Embassy Riga to build on their successes and advance our shared goals, building a world that is safer, more secure, and more prosperous.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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: Melissa Argyros

Date: 11/19/25

[The prepared statement of Ms. Argyros follows:]

Prepared Statement of Melissa Argyros

Chairman Risch, Senator Shaheen, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today. I am honored to be the nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me.

I would like to begin by recognizing those who have made it possible for me to be where I am.

I want to thank my family and friends who continue to support me in every imaginable way. I want to particularly thank my parents who taught me the value of hard work, as well as the beauty of a giving heart, and the importance of service and humility.

Growing up, I witnessed my parents build a successful business, while also learning how to turn that success into a vehicle to lift up neighbors and communities in ways that can change and save lives. They both grew up in poverty, and through their hard work attained the American dream. My father served as U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra after 9/11, and I was able to watch his diplomacy in action during a difficult time.

Professionally, I have spent many years working in our family real estate and investment company and I am grateful to the people who have dedicated their lives to making our company a success. They are like family to me.

I currently run our family foundation. We support programs that focus on health care, education, youth development and the arts. I am inspired by the tireless efforts of the people working in these institutions, and their commitment to making the world a better place. If confirmed, I look forward to working with a similar team of dedicated and committed individuals at the U.S. Embassy in Riga.

As I reflect on the opportunity to serve as Ambassador, I am reminded of the words of Henry Kissinger, a close friend of my father's, who said, "No foreign policy—no matter how ingenious—has any chance of success if it is born in the minds of a few and carried in the hearts of none." If confirmed, I look forward to the chance to advance American foreign policy and connect it to the Latvian people so that the benefit of our shared values can have a real and tangible meaning in this very critical region.

If confirmed, my priorities as Ambassador will focus on three key areas:

My first priority will always be to ensure the safety and security of U.S. citizens in Latvia.

My second priority will be to counter threats to our common security. Latvia has been an excellent partner and ally to the United States, and our relationship of 103 years is based on our shared goals, interests, and values. As a NATO Ally, Latvia has not only heeded, but amplified President Trump's call for Europe to do more in its own defense. Latvia is an outstanding host to our troops, and Latvian soldiers have served beside U.S. soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. Latvia is tough on border security, partnering with the United States to repel illegal immigration and safeguard both of our countries. And it shares U.S. concerns about China's record of economic coercion. If confirmed, I will work with the Latvian government to strengthen our security partnership and support the peace through strength that President Trump has called for.

My third priority will be to improve the depth of the U.S. economic relationship with Latvia to benefit both our peoples. Economic stability and prosperity are key components of security, and we have an opportunity to build our current trade relationship into an engine of growth. Latvian entrepreneurs have built companies that provide jobs for U.S. citizens throughout the United States. Additionally, Latvia, along with its Baltic neighbors, ended its energy dependence on Russia and is working with the United States to obtain a stable supply of energy options to keep the economy moving, including U.S. liquified natural gas and diesel.

If confirmed, I am excited to partner with Congress to further U.S. interests and priorities in Latvia. I would look forward to working with the talented staff at Embassy Riga to build on their successes and advance these shared goals, as a team. And I eagerly anticipate hearing from people across Latvia, deepening people-to-people ties as we work toward these priorities and share the things we love most about our cultures, building a world that is safer, more secure, and more prosperous.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you so much.
Ms. Bruce.

STATEMENT OF TAMMY BRUCE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY; THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS; AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Ms. BRUCE. Yes, thank you. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is my honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to represent the United States as the Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

My experience in business, with nonprofits, in activism, in media, as a cultural critic, as a writer, and television and radio commentary has prepared me well for this role.

I spent most of my professional life working to make a positive difference for the American people including, I have to say, my time spent as an advocate in the media and most recently as the State Department's spokesperson and public delegate to the United States.

Prior to that role it will not surprise you that I had not considered a career in government, and my opinion of the bureaucracy was mostly negative.

Yet within days of becoming the State Department's spokesperson I found out very quickly that my assumptions I had made about those who worked for the government were incorrect.

Foreign Service officers and civil service employees at State made my work possible. I presume our politics were very different, yet the men and women I met were not partisan activists, but patriots determined to serve their country, to make sure I was able to do the job that the President appointed me to. My thanks go out to all of them on this day.

Of course, President Trump is emblematic of the Founders' vision and ideal of leadership, and I am grateful and moved by the trust he has placed in me for this position.

I understand his commitment to our great country, knowing that genuine leadership and reform are needed to maintain our success so that future generations can thrive and know the joy that is being an American.

With the United States as a founding member of the United Nations it is unfortunate to have to note that over the past 80 years the U.N. has in fact strayed from its original mandate as outlined in the U.N. Charter.

The U.N. has become bloated, unfocused, and ineffective in solving today's most pressing challenges to global peace and security.

To be blunt, it has lost the confidence of the sovereign of our country, the American people. Now is the time for bold reform. Now is the time to get the U.N. back to basics, as we put it.

The U.N. must return to its core purposes, above all its founding mission to maintain international peace and security.

If confirmed, I look forward to supporting President Trump and Secretary Rubio in their efforts to reform the U.N. and revitalize U.S. diplomacy, putting the nation's interests first and delivering wins for the American people.

It is also vitally important to note that multilateral organizations must remember that they do not exist to manifest themselves as global governing entities. It is the sovereignty of member states which must prevail.

If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring U.S. funding to the U.N. advances policies and priorities that strictly add value to American taxpayers and American foreign policy interests.

We cannot support the proliferation of divisive concepts like DEI and gender ideology as well as a continuation of hateful anti-Israel bias.

This oversight extends to U.N. peacekeeping and peace operations that also need reform and reprioritization. As President Trump declared at the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. has tremendous potential. I personally believe that.

I believe that the U.N. is important and must be revitalized so it can continue to serve the people of the United States and the people of the world.

I am confident that we will continue to help the U.N. see this potential and return it to the useful organization it was established to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.

Thank you.

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: Tammy Bruce

Date: 1/19/25

[The prepared statement of Ms. Bruce follows:]

Prepared Statement of Tammy Bruce

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—it is my honor to appear before you today as President Trump’s nominee to represent the United States as the Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

My experience in business, with non-profits, in activism, in media, as a cultural critic, writer, and with television and radio commentary, has prepared me well for this role. I have spent most of my professional life working to make a positive difference for the American people, including my time spent as an advocate and in media, and most recently as the State Department Spokesperson and Public Delegate to the United Nations.

Today, I am reflecting on this nomination through the lens of my time as Spokesperson. Prior to that role, I had not considered a career in government, and my opinions of the bureaucracy were mostly negative—yet within days of becoming the State Department Spokesperson, I found out very quickly that many assumptions I had made about those who work for the government were wrong. Foreign Service Officers and Civil Service employees at State made my work possible. I presumed our politics were very different, yet the men and women I met were not partisan activists, but patriots determined to serve their country to make sure I was able to do the job to which the President appointed me.

Together with the appointed leadership at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and the career officials who make the work possible, I am grateful and heartened to know that change is possible, and the Founding Fathers were right to believe that the American people would be the key to making sure this great experiment would succeed. President Trump is emblematic of the Founders’ vision and ideal of leadership, and I am grateful and moved by the trust he has placed in me. I understand his commitment to our great country knowing that genuine leadership and reform are needed to maintain our success so that future generations can thrive and know the joy that is being an American.

As a founding member of the United Nations, the United States has long been its strongest supporter—leading in diplomacy, global engagement, and funding. The U.N. has an important role to play as the premier venue where sovereign nations come together to address shared international challenges.

And yet, over the past 80 years, the U.N. has strayed from its original mandate as outlined in the U.N. Charter. The U.N. has become bloated, unfocused, and ineffective in solving today’s most pressing challenges to global peace and security. To be blunt, it has lost the confidence of the sovereign of our country—the American people.

Now is the time for bold reform. Now is the time for the U.N. to get “back to the basics.” The U.N. must return to its core purposes, above all its founding mission to maintain international peace and security. It must become more efficient, more effective, and more accountable to the Member States it serves. The U.N. should focus on keeping peace and preventing conflicts, while respecting the sovereignty and independence of its member states.

If confirmed, I look forward to supporting President Trump and his efforts to revitalize U.S. diplomacy—putting the nation’s interests first and delivering wins for the American people. This extends to the United Nations. Guided by President Trump’s commitment to peace and vision for a strong, secure, and prosperous United States, proof that the President’s goals as implemented by Ambassador Waltz, can genuinely reform the U.N.

Just 2 days ago we saw the power of American leadership with the passing of the Gaza Resolution at the U.N. Security Council. This historic diplomatic victory was due to the United States, guided by the leadership of President Trump, Secretary Rubio, and Ambassador Waltz, brought member states together to endorse the president’s 20-Point Peace Plan, the first step to enduring peace in a region that for far too long has suffered in a status quo that destroyed lives and the future for people throughout the region for generations. This is what’s possible when American leadership takes the reins.

The United States does not support, nor was the U.N. founded to facilitate, Member States using the U.N. as a platform to outsource their policymaking. If confirmed, I will work to curb China’s attempts to insert Chinese Communist Party narratives within the U.N. and broader multilateral system. I will work with partners to oppose China’s attempts to advance its own economic, political, and security interests at the expense of others and American interests. Moreover, multilateral or-

ganizations must remember that they do not exist to manifest themselves as global governing entities. It is the sovereignty of member states which must prevail.

It is crucial that U.N. agencies have the right leadership to advance American interests. U.S. leadership promotes American businesses, innovation, and entrepreneurship and ensures U.S. standards remain the global gold standard.

If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring U.S. funding to the U.N. advances policies and priorities that strictly add value to American taxpayers and American foreign policy interests. We cannot support the proliferation of divisive concepts like DEI and gender ideology, as well as a continuation of hateful anti-Israel bias.

This oversight extends to U.N. peacekeeping, and peace operations that need reform and reprioritization. U.N. peacekeeping must be more accountable, adaptable, and transparent. Peacekeeping missions need clear goals, measurable progress, and responsible use of resources to better support peace and stability.

If confirmed, and through the America First values framework, I will continue to advocate for significant reform so the U.N. can return to its foundational purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

As President Trump declared at the U.N. General Assembly—the U.N. has tremendous potential. Under this President’s leadership, I’m confident we will continue to help the U.N. see this potential and return it to the useful organization it was established to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you so much.
Mr. Kaploun.

**STATEMENT OF RABBI YEHUDA KAPLOUN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE
SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM,
WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR**

Mr. KAPLOUN. Thank you.

Thank you, Chairman Risch, Senator Shaheen—Ranking Member—and the distinguished members of the committee. I would like to acknowledge my family who is here today.

My name is Yehuda Kaploun, and I am honored to be nominated for the important position of United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism with the rank of ambassador.

I want to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for placing their trust in me for this very important role. As a child, I would walk to synagogue with my father, the noted educator Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, in New Haven, Connecticut, and I do remember occasionally hearing the cries of “dirty Jew” along the way. Later, while living in Crown Heights during the pogrom when the Australian scholar Yankel Rosenbaum was stabbed to death during the riots with the cries of “kill the Jews” in the streets.

My sister Esther Kaploun passed away from 9/11 related cancers. My cousin Adi Kaploun, a brave mother, was killed on October 7 protecting her two young children, who were orphaned. She was one of the 1,200 souls murdered that day.

I sat with Yarden Bibas the night before the funeral of his wife and children. Yes, I have seen the worst that humanity can do. When asked to serve my country by our President in a role that I truly wished did not need to exist there was no hesitation.

I sit before you humbled by the opportunity to serve my country. It is a daunting task. Antisemitism is a symbol of larger hatred. History has proven that when a country starts with allowing antisemitism the results are not kind to that country.

That is why President Trump and Secretary Rubio have stated there can be no compromise with antisemitism. Antisemitism is

anti-American. Those who chant “Death to the Jews” all too often chant “Death to America.”

We cannot allow anyone to teach children from infancy to kill and to be a martyr. Together, with bipartisan support, we must educate the world to respect one another.

Lofty goals, perhaps, but a lesson that I learned from the grand rabbi of Lubavitch as well as from my grandparents and my parents is to do my best to impact and make the world a better place.

I am not a miracle worker. We cannot do this alone. We do this by building bridges through education and friendships and dialogue. We must learn from the past to protect and educate the living.

We must educate, educate, educate about the history of the Jewish community in America and the Judeo-Christian values our country was founded on.

I pledge to all of you here I will not waver, and I will not rest. I will commit to you to do my very best, if confirmed, to fight antisemitism everywhere and to make this world a better arena for God to dwell and spread his blessings upon us all.

I am honored to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering 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: Yehuda Kaploun

Date: 11/19 / 2025



[The prepared statement of Mr. Kaploun follows:]

Prepared Statement of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun

Thank you, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen and distinguished Members of the committee. I would like to acknowledge my family, who is here today.

My name is Yehuda Kaploun and I am honored to be nominated for the important position of United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador. I want to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for placing their trust in me for this important role.

Allow me a few moments to share with you about my history and how we can combat this hatred that has consumed this planet.

As a child, I would walk to synagogue with my father the noted educator Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun in New Haven, Connecticut and Ottawa, Canada. I remember occasionally hearing the cries of “dirty Jew” along the way.

Later, I was living in Crown Heights during the pogrom where the Australian scholar Yankel Rosenbaum was stabbed to death during the riots, with cries of “kill the Jews” in the streets.

Then I was a volunteer advisor at the World Trade Center on September 11, when terrorists crashed two planes into the towers. I watched as brave firefighters ran into the building and paid the ultimate sacrifice. My sister Esther Kaploun passed away 6 years ago from 9/11-related cancers. The shirt that I wore on that day was used by the government to measure the levels of asbestos at the site.

My cousin Adi Kaploun, a brave mother, was killed on October 7 and her two young children were orphaned. She was one of the 1200 souls murdered that day.

I sat with Yarden Bibas the night before the funeral of his wife and children. Yes, I have seen the worst that humanity can do.

When asked to serve my country by our president in a role that I truly wished didn’t need to exist, there was no hesitation. Despite the ongoing threats to my family from individuals that required significant change in my life, I sit before you humbled by the opportunity to serve my country in a role to protect Jews domestically and globally.

It is a daunting task. And I’d like to share the thoughts and goals that will guide me, G-d willing, upon confirmation. Antisemitism is a symbol of larger hatred. History has proven when a country starts with allowing antisemitism the results aren’t kind to that country. That is why President Trump and Secretary Rubio have stated there can be no compromise with antisemitism.

Today we must focus on the living and the future. So how do we combat antisemitism? How do we combat the fact that foreign governments spend hundreds of millions to promote antisemitic agendas and endow chairs at universities with the distinct role of teaching hate and promoting an anti-American agenda?

Antisemitism is also anti-American. Those who chant “death to the Jews” all too often chant “death to America.”

Why is it a child graduating elementary school in many States cannot tell you who the past five presidents were, or our first five presidents, but they are aware of Gaza problems? Or college students attend protests and chant “From the river to the sea” but don’t know what river or what sea?

The answer, Senators, is simply education and a resolve to combat hate anywhere and by anybody. We are often too silent when people seek to justify the murder, rape, and killing of men, women, children, and babies on October 7, or exhibit blatant ignorance about hateful acts of antisemitism. There can never be one iota of hesitation to condemn antisemitism.

I was privileged to go for many years to Sabbath services with the late Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel and engaged in many wonderful projects with him, including working to help special needs children. I recall a profound quote he gave to me one day: “A community is judged by how it treats those less fortunate than them.”

Then I was with him when he spoke about the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia Herzegovina. He realized that the task at hand is to educate the world, that we are all humans created in G-d’s image. We cannot allow anyone to teach children from infancy to kill and be a martyr. Together with bipartisan support, we must educate the world to respect one another.

Lofty goals perhaps. But a lesson I learned from the grand rabbi of Lubavitch as well as from my grandparents and parents is to do my best to impact and make the world a better place before you place your head on the pillow every evening.

I am not a miracle worker. We cannot do this alone. We do this by building bridges through education and friendships. We must learn from the past to protect and educate the living. If confirmed, I urge all of you to please join me in helping to create standards that can hold those countries and companies accountable that

promote antisemitism. Join me in condemning antisemitic rhetoric anywhere and by anyone.

We must educate, educate, educate about the history of the Jewish community and the Judeo-Christian values our country was founded on. I pledge to all of you here: I will not waiver, I will not rest. I will commit to you to do my very best, if confirmed, to fight antisemitism everywhere and make this world a better arena for G-d to dwell and spread his blessings upon us all.

I am honored to appear before you today and I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much.

Mr. Nirenberg.

STATEMENT OF DARRYL NIRENBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ROMANIA

Mr. NIRENBERG. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Romania.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for placing their confidence in me, and it is an incredible honor to be before this committee on whose staff I served as counsel.

It was the experience of a lifetime and a privilege for which I will always be grateful, although after all the hours spent sitting on the benches behind you I can tell you it is a much different perspective sitting down here anticipating your questions.

With me today are my wife Lori, our son Drew, and our daughter Kelly. I am grateful for their support. Lori was also a Senate staffer, and we met right next door in the Hart Building.

Her father, the late Chic Hecht, served as Senator from Nevada and also later as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas. Our daughter Kelly works in public relations, and like me, she is a proud Colgate alum.

It is deeply meaningful for me to be nominated to be Ambassador to Romania. My grandparents emigrated to this country from Eastern Europe, and I saw history unfold during my time on the staff of this committee when the Berlin Wall fell and the Romanian people won their freedom from communism. Should I be confirmed it would bring it all full circle.

Romania is a key NATO ally strategically located on the Black Sea and bordering Ukraine. It has great opportunities for American companies, and it has the potential to be a game changer when it comes to energy resources. Our relationship with Romania has never been more important.

If confirmed, I commit to advancing President Trump's "America First" agenda and working to make America stronger, safer, and more prosperous. I will first focus on ensuring the safety of Americans serving, living, and working—visiting there.

I will work to deepen our military and security partnership, and I will focus on strengthening our trade and investment relationship.

I will promote U.S. exports, advocate on behalf of American companies, and encourage investments that create jobs in the United States.

This nomination is the honor of a lifetime for which I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio. I look forward, if con-

firmed, to working closely with this committee to strengthen our relationship with Romania and promote America's national interests abroad.

Thank you.

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: Darryl Nirenberg

Date: 11/19/25

[The prepared statement of Mr. Nirenberg follows:]

Prepared Statement of Darryl Nirenberg

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Romania.

I am grateful to President Trump and to Secretary Rubio for placing their confidence in me, and, if confirmed, giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of serving our country overseas.

It is a particular honor to be before this Committee on whose staff I served during a pivotal time in our history. It was the experience of a lifetime and a privilege for which I will always be grateful.

It gave me a unique and foundational window into how foreign policy is made and provided me with an appreciation for the role our Founding Fathers set forth for the Senate in its conduct.

With me today are my wife, Lori, our son, Drew, and our daughter, Kelly. I am grateful for their support.

Lori was also a Senate staffer. We met right next door in the Hart Building. Lori worked for the Judiciary Committee and for Senators Paul Laxalt, Gordon Humphrey and John Warner.

Her father, the late Chic Hecht, served as Senator from Nevada. He was later approved by this Committee and confirmed by the Senate as Ambassador to the Bahamas. He saw that an assignment as a highlight of his career.

Our son, Drew, is the third generation to work in the Senate. He served as Communications Advisor to Senator Rob Portman, who, Senators will recall, served on this Committee.

Our daughter Kelly lives in Chicago, where she works in Public Relations. She, like me, is a proud graduate of Colgate University. She is also a national award-winning amateur photographer.

Mr. Chairman, permit me a moment to share my background. I grew up in a small, picturesque town at the foot of the Catskill Mountains in Upstate New York. My father suffered a heart attack when I was a boy. He survived, but it left me having to pay for my education—and many of my non-essentials.

So, I started a paper route, mowed lawns in the summers and shoveled sidewalks in the winter. I worked in a convenience store, in a grocery store and in our local high school, and bussed tables at a Catskills resort. During college, I started a business selling premium candies, and during a semester here in DC, waited tables at the Key Bridge Marriott.

My high school mentor helped get me into Colgate University, his alma mater. That is where I discovered my passion for foreign policy, starting during my first January term. That is when I participated in an international relations program here in DC led by a professor who had been head of policy planning at the State Department.

The day I graduated, I got in my old clunker, drove to DC, got my job back waiting tables in the evening at the Marriott, and within days, I was hired onto the staff of Senator S.I. Hayakawa.

Upon the Senator's retirement, I joined the staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee, during which time I earned my law degree at night at George Washington University.

Upon receiving my degree, I became Minority Counsel, and later Deputy Staff Director, to this Committee. I then served as Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to Senator Jesse Helms, including when he chaired this Committee.

Since leaving the Hill, I have practiced law first at Patton Boggs, and now at Steptoe, and have had the privilege of having as clients some of our nation's great entrepreneurs.

No one gets where they are without receiving a hand along the way. In addition to President Trump and Secretary Rubio, I owe a great deal to those who opened doors for me here on Capitol Hill.

I am also indebted to the nine former US Ambassadors, six of whom served in Romania, who took the time to brief me—especially those with whom I have met multiple times. I appreciate their helping prepare me for this hearing, and with the Senate's consent, for serving in Romania.

Mr. Chairman, it is deeply meaningful for me to be nominated to be Ambassador to Romania. My grandparents emigrated to America from Eastern Europe.

And I saw history unfold during my time on the staff of this Committee when the Berlin Wall fell and Romania won its freedom from Communism and embarked on

its democratic path. Should I be confirmed, this assignment would bring things full circle for me.

In the decades since, America's relationship with Romania has grown into a stable and strategic alliance with cooperation across a range of vital areas.

The Alabama Air National Guard has a long-standing and multifaceted partnership with Romania, established through the U.S. National Guard State Partnership Program more than three decades ago.

Romania occupies a strategic position bordering Ukraine, and on the Black Sea—which is so important to commerce between East and West and the flow of grain to the rest of the world. One of our previous Ambassadors to the country referred to it as the strategic hinge where Europe and Asia meet.

And, Romania has great potential when it comes to energy and critical mineral resources. American firms are participating in the development of these resources—which will help reduce Europe's dependence on Russia.

If confirmed, I commit to advance President Trump's America First Agenda and work to make America stronger, safer and more prosperous. I will strengthen ties with Romania, support our military partnership, and promote and defend America's economic and security interests.

Specifically, I will first focus on the fundamentals of embassy operations, chief among them, ensuring the safety and security of Americans in Romania—including those serving there and their families, and the many who visit annually.

Having worked for Senators who put constituent service first, I have an appreciation for this primary responsibility. It is fulfilling work and what the American taxpayer expects.

My time working in the Senate, and in managing teams there and in private practice, also gave me an understanding of the need for, and elements of, teamwork where all pull in the same direction in support of a mission.

Second, if confirmed, I will work to deepen our military and security partnership.

Romania is a strong NATO Ally. It sets an example through its commitment to defense spending and support for Alliance activities. Romania currently spends 2.28 percent of GDP on defense and at the NATO summit earlier this year, pledged to raise that to 5 percent by 2035. Romania hosts several multinational NATO headquarters and the U.S. Aegis Ashore site under NATO's Ballistic Missile Defense System.

Romania has committed \$16 billion to U.S. foreign military sales, including an order last year for F-35s. It has devoted resources to co-production efforts with U.S. companies to contribute to European burden-sharing and NATO readiness.

If confirmed, I will work to advance this cooperation with the goal of furthering our defense partnership for years to come.

Romania is a strong law enforcement partner, helping detect threats and stop terrorists and other bad actors before they get to our shores.

Consistent with the tenets set forth by Secretary Rubio, if confirmed, I will work cooperatively with Romania and colleagues across the U.S. Government to build on this partnership with the goal of ensuring we continue to keep America safe.

Third, if confirmed, I will focus on strengthening our trade and investment relationship with Romania.

Commercial diplomacy is rightfully a core element of President Trump's America First agenda. I will work to promote U.S. exports, including in the agricultural sector, to help reduce our \$2.5 billion trade deficit.

I will use what I have learned from decades of experience inside and outside government to advocate on behalf of American companies. And I will encourage investments that create jobs in the United States.

The United States is the fourth largest investor in Romania, with contracts and investments totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. I will assist American companies in identifying and securing more investment opportunities in Romania with a focus on those that result in more jobs for Americans. And I will urge the Romanian government to maintain the economic climate necessary to attract such investment.

I will particularly focus on development of Romania's energy resources, which will reduce Europe's dependence on Russia.

The Neptun Deep Gas Field in the Black Sea is scheduled to start production in 2027 and will solidify Romania's place as the largest gas producer in the EU.

Romania's nuclear reactor in Cernavoda is set to be refurbished by 2030, with two new reactors projected to come online a few years after. And Romania is slated to be the first member of the EU to deploy small modular reactors and will do so with U.S. technology.

In addition to the three priorities, if confirmed, I will work to build on one of our most important linkages—our people-to-people ties. Romania has long looked favor-

ably toward the United States, and Romanian public sentiment toward the United States is among the most positive in Europe.

We share core beliefs in the importance of faith and family. We have strong work ethics that put a premium on getting the job done, and we both take great pride in our democracies and our countries' rich heritages and achievements.

Numerous governmental and private sector leaders in Romania have first-hand experience with our country gained through academic and professional exchanges. This has created relationships, understanding and an appreciation for our values that has helped build ties between our countries over decades.

Now is the time to take steps focused on future generations to solidify this relationship for the long-term.

Should I be confirmed, my tenure will coincide with our nation's 250th anniversary. This will provide a unique opportunity to celebrate and highlight the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded and thrives.

In my engagements, whether public or private, I will underscore our country's commitment to protecting and promoting fundamental freedoms, especially freedom of expression.

I will also work to ensure American perspectives are well represented; the elements of President Trump's America First agenda are well known; and any malign propaganda vigorously countered.

This nomination is the honor of a lifetime, for which I am grateful to President Trump and to Secretary Rubio. Should I be confirmed, I pledge to be a strong advocate for American interests, and a dedicated representative of President Trump and the American people.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the Committee. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions, and if confirmed, working closely with the Committee to strengthen our relationship with Romania and promote America's national interests.

Senator RISCH. Thank you so much.

Mr. Yeaw.

STATEMENT OF DR. CHRISTOPHER YEAW, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION

Dr. YEAW. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for this opportunity.

I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve as the Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and Nonproliferation. I also want to thank Secretary Rubio for his support. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and appear before this committee.

If confirmed, I assure the committee that I will be a clear and unwavering voice for an "America First" foreign policy in service to the great people of this great nation, and I commit to working with this committee and with Congress to advance our shared vision and values.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my family, friends, and colleagues. Without a lifetime of their support and encouragement I would not be here today. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family.

My wife Nan is here with me today. My daughter Grace, my son John, son-in-law Nathan, are unable to join us as they are doing their part to keep our great economy going, and my youngest daughter Mary is home caring for her newborn and my first grandchild Christopher.

And of course I thank God under whose watchful and all searching gaze we all must serve to the best of the abilities He has bestowed.

I have had the privilege of serving in the Federal Government for over two-thirds of my 30 year career. In that time I have worked in acquisitions, intelligence, policy, operations, education, and research.

The themes and activities surrounding nuclear deterrence, nuclear weapons and missile defense development, assurance of allies, and formulating an accurate and clear eyed view of WMD threats have dominated my daily life for my entire adult life, and if confirmed it would be an honor to carry that breadth of experience into this new role.

Thank you very much.

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: Christopher Yeaw

Date: 11.19.25

[The prepared statement of Dr. Yeaw follows:]

Prepared Statement of Dr. Christopher Yeaw

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of this Committee: thank you for this opportunity. I want to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve as the Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control and Nonproliferation. I also want to thank Secretary Rubio for his support. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and appear before this committee. If confirmed, I will be a clear and unwavering voice for an America First foreign policy in service to the great people of this great nation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my family, friends, and colleagues; without a lifetime of support and encouragement, I would not be here today. I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to my family. My wife Nan and eldest daughter Grace are here with me today. My son John and son-in-law Nathan are unable to join us as they are doing their part to keep our great economy going. And my youngest daughter Mary is home caring for her newborn—and my first grandchild, Christopher. And of course, I thank God, under whose watchful and all-searching gaze we all must serve to the best of the abilities he's bestowed.

I have had the privilege of serving in the Federal Government for over two-thirds of my 30-year career. In that time, I've worked in acquisitions, intelligence, policy, operations, education, and research. The themes and activities surrounding nuclear deterrence, nuclear weapons and missile defense development, assurance of allies, and formulating an accurate and clear-eyed view of WMD threats have dominated my entire adult life. And if confirmed, it would be an honor to carry that breadth of experience into this new role.

It hardly seems necessary to state here that we are living in an exceedingly momentous and challenging geopolitical era. To take one example: the 2012 DoD Report to Congress on China's Military Power, stated quite confidently that China would continue to "maintain a limited nuclear force." By 2018, that same Report warned that China was developing an early warning system that could support a launch-on-warning doctrine. The 2023 Report estimated that China would have over 1000 warheads by 2030. And now just days ago, Gen Wilsbach informed the Senate that China is projected to amass a force of 1500 warheads by 2035.

Of course, China is only one potential threat among many. Russia continues its grinding war of attrition in Ukraine and is conducting destabilizing tests of new strategic nuclear weapons, Iran remains recalcitrant on its nuclear program, and North Korea continues to expand and diversify its own increasingly capable nuclear forces.

I am a firm believer that arms control, done properly, can advance American interests. But we cannot seek arms control for arms control's sake. We must pursue arms control that is verifiable and enforceable, and where arms control agreements currently exist, we will work to strengthen their enforcement. While credible and effective deterrent forces can constrain an adversary's desire to employ nuclear weapons, verifiable and effective arms control can constrain an adversary's capability to employ nuclear weapons.

The need for accountability and strong verification extends to the chemical and biological threat landscape as well. If confirmed, I will also ensure my bureau implements the President's vision for improving the safety and security of biological research and strengthening and enforcing the Biological Weapons Convention with modern tools, including AI, and advance our priorities on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I will also pursue meaningful, effective, and specific policies to strengthen America's nuclear deterrence umbrella. Extended deterrence has been, and continues to be, one of America's greatest accomplishments toward nonproliferation and global stability. And that extended deterrent cannot remain static, just as the threats to our allies and friends continue to evolve.

While extended deterrence has been the cornerstone of nonproliferation, America must also continue to take active measures to counter proliferation that threatens our national security. It was my honor to carry back the highest value items from Libya's covert nuclear weapons program in January 2004 virtually handcuffed to my wrist ... an operation that remains possibly our nation's greatest counterproliferation operation. That operation was enabled by demonstrable military capabilities, an effective sanctions regime, and decisive interdiction actions based on exquisite intelligence. If confirmed, I commit to continue that legacy of robust American counter and nonproliferation efforts.

In addition to a momentous geopolitical era, we are in an era of increasingly rapid technological development—technologies like AI, quantum, biotechnology, semi-

conductors—which poses its own nonproliferation challenge. China is rapidly developing indigenous technology capabilities and leveraging civilian technologies to advance military applications. This presents one of the most complex challenges of our time. These technologies expand the potential for destabilizing competition. If confirmed, I will use the Department’s full suite of national security tools available to me to confront these challenges.

I will also be committed to promoting American nuclear energy dominance globally. Through his public statements and Executive Orders, the President has made clear that this is an economic and national security imperative, and as the leader of the Bureau responsible for negotiating peaceful nuclear cooperation agreements—or 123 Agreements—I will work assiduously to promote America’s nuclear industry as the preferred provider for friends and allies and to promote the highest standards of nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation as we advance American economic and technological leadership.

In conclusion, if confirmed, I look forward to engaging this committee and consulting with you and your staff on these issues so that we can together achieve an America First foreign policy ... making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous than ever.

Senator RISCH. Thanks so much.

Mr. Navarro.

STATEMENT OF BERNARDO NAVARRO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU

Mr. NAVARRO. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru.

I am grateful to President Trump for entrusting me with this nomination and to Secretary Rubio for his steadfast support.

I also want to thank my friend Rick Scott for introducing me into the record and for his friendship all these years.

It is a blessing to be here today with my beautiful wife Claudia and our three children—Alexandra, Matthew, and Jake. I am also joined by my brother Gilbert, my sister Norma, my mother Norma, and my father Gilberto.

I also want to thank my friends and family that joined us from south Florida and Puerto Rico and made the trek to be here today.

My parents were born in Cuba. They lost everything to communism and fled their homeland in search of freedom. I will forever be grateful to them for their courage, their sacrifice, and their unwavering faith in the promise of America.

They put their own dreams aside so that my siblings and I could achieve ours. From an early age they taught us that anything resembling—anything resembling—communism is not only wrong but a direct threat to the liberty and the opportunity this nation represents.

Today, I can proudly say that my parents’ dreams have come full circle. Their journey from losing everything in Cuba to seeing their son achieve the American dream is a testament to what this country makes possible.

If confirmed, I will carry their story and the story of countless families like ours as proof that the American dream is not just alive but thriving.

Over the past weeks I have had the privilege of meeting many of you to discuss our relationship with Peru. Under the Trump ad-

ministration we have a golden opportunity to put America first as we advance our interests abroad.

If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with this committee to support the Administration's goals of protecting the safety of U.S. citizens, promoting economic prosperity and regional security, and deepening a bilateral relationship that has endured for nearly two centuries.

As the founder and owner of Benworth Capital I have witnessed firsthand the potential for expanding our ties with Peru. When I served as chairman of one of south Florida's largest trade associations we organized a trade mission to Peru that produced historic results and forged business relationships that continue today. I will bring that same resolve to my work in Peru if confirmed.

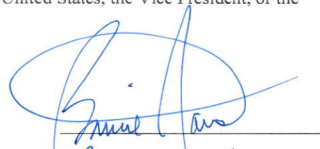
Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of this committee, if confirmed I will dedicate myself to strengthening the bonds between our nations and advocating for American interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

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: Bernardo Navarro

Date: 11/19/25

[The prepared statement of Mr. Navarro follows:]

Prepared Statement of Bernado Navarro

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, my long-time friend Senator Rick Scott. It is a profound honor to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Peru. I am grateful to President Trump for entrusting me with this nomination and to Secretary Rubio for his support. Their confidence in my ability to serve the American people is humbling, and I look forward to the opportunity to advance our nation's interests in Peru.

It is a blessing to be here today with my beautiful wife, Claudia, a proud Peruvian-American, and our three children—Alexandra, Matthew, and Jake. I am also joined by my brother, Gilbert; my sister, Norma; my 86-year-old mother, Norma; and my 87-year-old father, Gilberto.

My parents were born in Cuba. They lost everything to communism and fled their homeland in search of freedom. I will forever be grateful to them—for their courage, their sacrifice, and their unwavering faith in the promise of America. They put their own dreams aside so that my siblings and I could achieve ours. From an early age, they taught us that anything resembling communism is not only wrong, but a direct threat to the liberty and opportunity this nation represents.

Today, I can proudly say that my parents' dreams have come full circle. Their journey—from losing everything in Cuba to seeing their son achieve the American Dream—is a testament to what this country makes possible. If confirmed, I will carry their story—and the story of countless families like ours—as proof that the American Dream is not just alive, but thriving.

Over the past weeks, I have had the privilege of meeting many of you to discuss the United States' relationship with Peru. Under the Trump Administration, we have a golden opportunity to put America and Americans first as we advance our interests abroad. If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with this Committee to support the Administration's goals: protecting the safety of U.S. citizens, promoting economic prosperity and regional security, and deepening a bilateral relationship that has endured for nearly two centuries. President Trump nominated me—the founder and owner of Benworth Capital with nearly 30-years of financial services experience and first-hand knowledge of Peru—to demonstrate the Administration's commitment to strengthening our bilateral relationship.

The U.S.-Peru bilateral relationship is grounded in mutual respect and shared values. Peru's dynamic economy, bolstered by its mineral wealth, agricultural growth, and infrastructure projects, presents significant opportunities for American industry. I have witnessed firsthand the potential for expanding our economic ties. During the aftermath of the Great Recession, when South Florida's economy was struggling, I served as Chairman of one of the region's largest trade associations. Rather than standing still, I insisted that we think differently and look beyond our traditional markets. We organized a trade mission to Peru that produced historic results for our members and forged business relationships that continue today. If confirmed, I will bring that same resolve to my work in Peru.

Peru's economic opportunities are not without challenges. China has exploited South America's natural resources to advance its strategic interests at the expense of our partners, and Peru is no exception. China's vast investments in Peru's critical infrastructure, energy sector, and mining industry give Beijing significant economic leverage, which impacts our shared commercial and security interests. China has also increased its cultural presence in Peru through the establishment of Confucius Institutes. I have worked to root out this type of Chinese influence here in the United States. During my time as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, the largest college in the US, I worked with my colleagues to remove a Confucius Institute that had established itself there, helping the college regain its academic independence. If confirmed, I will apply the same dedication to efforts that safeguard Peru's independence from malign influences.

Beyond economic ties, our collaboration with Peru is vital in addressing shared security challenges. Dangerous criminal organizations and narcotics traffickers are terrorizing the people of Peru and threatening the stability of the region. If confirmed, I will support efforts to establish a strong, comprehensive response to these threats, improving the safety of Peruvians and Americans alike.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of this committee. If confirmed, I will dedicate myself, as I have always done, to strengthening the bonds between our nations, advocating for American interests, and advancing policies that promote security, prosperity, and stability. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator RISCH. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Navarro.

Last evening I was with Secretary Rubio at dinner and his wife, and they spoke very highly of you and said to extend their wishes. Wished they could be here to support you, but both of them were tied up. But thank you for your service.

Speaking of the Secretary, Mr. Nirenberg, like you he found out the hard way that sitting over there is a lot different than sitting up on this side, so thanks a lot.

I want to talk for a few minutes, Mr. Kaploun, about your work. You know, it really seems like we are slipping backward on anti-semitism.

I always thought we were at one end of the spectrum and the Palestinians were at the other end of the spectrum. We have all seen the texts that they use teaching their children antisemitism.

When I first got here those texts, believe it or not, were paid for with U.S. taxpayer money through UNRWA, which we stopped as quickly as we could. They are still using the texts but they are not paying with our taxpayer money. So they are at one end of the spectrum.

The other end of the spectrum I thought was America. After October 7, I have to tell you I was nauseated to see these people up in—particularly up in the New York area siding with Hamas.

Anybody who has even a thought like that should look at the film what happened on October 7. That would change their mind very quickly.

You have got your work cut out for us, but you have got a lot of work to do right here. I have heard antisemitic speeches on the floor of the House of Representatives, which I never thought I would see.

Your thoughts?

Mr. KAPLOUN. Thank you very much, Senator, for the question.

I think, if I refer back to my opening statement, it is education. People do not know the history. People do not understand that we have to respect one another. I often urge people to go to the Holocaust Museum so they could understand history.

You know, people who would like to say that the Holocaust did not happen or people would like to have revisionist history, we have in our midst in our country some of the bravest people who in 1944 and 1945 liberated death camps—American soldiers, regular American boys from all over America—and the problem is that people do not want to listen to them and hear their stories.

Because they know firsthand in their quest to redeem Europe from the Nazis they came across the death camps, and they are the best advocates in the world, and people do not want to take the time to understand that these people saw the worst of humanity.

And in America we believe in freedom of expression and freedom of speech, but at the same time we have to educate people as to what the facts truly are so you are educated, and we are missing that boat, sir.

Senator RISCH. Well, thank you.

And I throw in completely with your remarks on education. I made reference to what is being taught in the Palestinian schools and the texts that they are using.

The challenge is going to be, as we go forward, trying to reconcile the situation there is that it is going to be very difficult to get through that, what has been taught in those schools for generations and what people are living with there.

That has got to get turned around, and if it does not get turned around you are going to get the same results in the future. So you have got your work cut out for you. We wish you the best.

Ms. Bruce, NATO needs an overhaul really, really badly. Their bureaucracy is incredible. American taxpayers are paying for a lot of it, and it truly has become a bureaucratic institution and lost, really, the view of its core mission.

And you know, they—I think probably the name needs a change. Our nations are not united. Indeed, if anything, as I see the world we are becoming more and more polarized with us, the democracies—those of us that are free market, free enterprise, capitalists, people who support human rights—on one side, and on the other countries that are run by dictators or autocrats and are socialist or communist with zero respect for individual human rights, and we are polarizing.

More and more they are coming together, and more and more our side is coming together, we are drawn together by each of our shared values within our group, and we have different values.

And I have always said that the biggest challenge I see from this seat during the 21st century is figuring out how we are going to occupy the planet together without killing each other because they are not going to change, and we are not going to change.

And I really think that we could do better in the United Nations by getting rid of a lot of the bureaucracy and getting back to its core mission of trying to reconcile, and that is just not working.

Your thoughts?

Ms. BRUCE. Well, yes, sir. I thank you for that. I appreciate it.

What I can say, because I know millions of Americans agree with that, that has been a problem. It has become a bureaucracy that has become ineffective, slow, unable to really operate in this dynamic world.

But I would suggest, and this is what the world has also seen, that things can change and that was shown and is shown every day by President Trump.

It is a huge inspiration not just for me and those of us who know him, but for Americans having, of course, voted for him again a second time, that they realize that, look, things have not been going well not only when it came to the economy here but when it comes to foreign relations and the situation around the world.

And I have seen, being a short time already at the U.N. under my public delegate role and as an advisor to Ambassador Waltz, is that the U.N. also wants leadership. We saw how they responded to President Trump during the High Level Week for the U.N. General Assembly.

They want leadership. He is well respected, he is inspirational, and he clearly already makes a difference around the world.

So I think it is that example that tells me and the five other Ambassadors—the four that you have already confirmed to the U.S. mission to the U.N.—that he is serious about wanting to make it work.

He sent people that he knows will get the job done. We have expressed that—I know, certainly, Ambassador Waltz has—certainly, by doing great work because it is not a zero sum game of one or the other. It is about blending reform with the work that we are doing.

That is what President Trump does. He is our guiding hand here, and I am accepting this nomination and hope you will confirm me because I believe that we can make the difference.

Senator RISC. Well said.

Senator Ricketts.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United Nations recently passed a U.S. backed resolution tied to President Trump's Gaza peace plan. A major part of that plan is expanding humanitarian aid. This includes securing aid corridors, protecting civilians, and getting relief into Gaza.

The Administration has been clear that aid must increase, but it must also be accountable. That means that UNRWA cannot be allowed to be anywhere near it.

For years UNRWA has been plagued by Hamas infiltration that directly undermines peace and security in the region. That is why I led a letter with 25 of my Senate colleagues backing the Administration's stance that UNRWA must be prohibited as a humanitarian delivery mechanism.

If we are going to build a durable peace, aid must go through vetted organizations and partners we can trust.

Ms. Bruce, as the deputy representative to the U.N. what specific steps will you take to ensure that no aid, directly or indirectly, flows through UNRWA?

Ms. BRUCE. Thank you, sir. I appreciate that.

I think, perhaps, the most recent comment that reassures everyone that UNRWA will have no role in Gaza, its development, and distribution is from Secretary Rubio.

He made that very clear in speaking to reporters that they would have absolutely no role—it was undeniable and clear—for the exact reasons that you stated, sir.

Part of what President Trump indicated at the beginning of this is he moved to want to create peace in a region that for generations it could not happen or was resisted, or it was—misery was the status quo.

President Trump said there had to be new ideas. There had to be a new approach, not just in that situation but in many others, and that is where I believe the U.N. can come in and make the difference is that countries—sovereign countries working together to find peace, to reinforce peace, to facilitate.

That dynamic around the world is necessary for all of us to be able to talk together and work together in that environment. I believe the President clearly understands that as well.

Our role, the first example, is that remarkable passage of the Gaza resolution. It was the first time something like that occurred, and what the U.N. Security Council did was put their stamp of approval on President Trump's 20 point peace plan for that region.

It was not the establishment of a new U.N. force. It was not the establishment or the stamp of approval on the status quo, moving forward.

It was a stamp of acceptance and a welcoming of 13 to zero with two abstentions that this had to occur, that President Trump's plan was new. It was something that could make the difference.

It was something that has to be implemented, and the way to do that, for the world to come together to see that agreement at the Security Council means that other nations, other entities, NGOs, know that this is something new, it is a new way forward, but it is something they can work forward with.

The World Food Programme, other entities associated with the United Nations, and other nations and their assistance will make the difference. We will pick up the difference of whatever UNRWA claimed that they were doing.

And remarking back to my colleague here, the rabbi, is the fact that it is also about education when it comes to UNRWA. The nature of what they were doing in inculcating and grooming the next generation of the children of that region to hate also must come to an end.

So that is, unfortunately, a new idea but it is one that we are committed to, and it is going to be very exciting to help usher that through as it moves forward.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Ms. Bruce.

Ms. BRUCE. Thank you, sir.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Ms. Argyros, we will go back to you for a moment. Tell us a little bit about your views on Latvia.

I was there not long ago, and I am always amazed at the Baltics where they are sitting right—looking across the fence at Russia. They are frightened, and they want our assurances that things are going to be OK.

Tell us your thoughts about what you are going to tell them when you go there.

Ms. ARGYROS. Thank you, Chairman Risch, for the question.

Latvia stands at the forefront of Russian aggression. They understand the severity of the implications of the war in Ukraine.

They were the first to step in and train Ukrainian soldiers and provide weapons to fight Russia in Ukraine. Their shared border with Russia and Belarus is a serious issue for them.

Belarus attempts to send weaponized migrants through their borders to on a daily basis attack Latvia with cyberattacks, multiple different ways that they attempt to undermine and destabilize the Latvian government.

They face a serious threat with Russia, and we have partnered with them. We have been a partner with them for over a hundred years.

We housed their diplomats in our country while they were under occupation from Russia. We have a terrific relationship with Latvia. They purchased most of their weapons from us. They now purchase all of their LNG from us, which is terrific.

They have stopped purchasing all Russian oil. So they take the threat from Russia quite seriously, and I would advocate for us to remain a steadfast partner with them in their defense against Russia.

Senator RISCH. Well, I hope when you get there you will convey our assurances that our support is there and thank them for what

they have to go through in order to stand up to Russia right there on the border. So thank you for that.

Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome, everybody. A special welcome to Darryl Nirenberg.

Nice to see you again. We were fellow staff members on this committee back in the 1980s, so good to see you again.

Ms. Bruce, my question is for you, and it relates to the horrors that we are witnessing in Sudan today including the brutal actions the RSF is taking against people in Darfur including in Al Fashir.

And when Secretary Rubio was before this committee as a nominee here is what he said. He said that we will, quote, “need to raise the fact that they,” referring to the UAE, “are openly supporting an entity that is carrying out a genocide”—a genocide, and the U.S. Government has found that the RSF is engaged in genocide in Sudan.

I am assuming that the Trump administration continues to support that finding from the previous Administration. Is that right?

Ms. BRUCE. Well, I can tell you that certainly through Secretary Rubio we know that that is an acknowledged framework, and in my current position when I am confirmed I will make a point of an issue like that, which certainly matters as much as every other issue, to make sure that the Trump administration and Secretary Rubio—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Sorry. Yes, I have limited time. So I was just wondering if that is still the policy of the Trump administration. If you do not know we can get back to you.

Ms. BRUCE. Well—yes. Well, I know, again, where Secretary Rubio stands, certainly.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. OK.

Ms. BRUCE. I know that in the time that—already that I have spent at the U.N. that it is a major conversation, that it is something that the mission cares about, and that we are working forward on. So it is a major issue.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. All right.

The U.N. has been very clear on this as have members of this committee including Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen, and it is my view that the United States should do everything it can in its power to pressure the outside powers that are fueling this war from stopping fueling this war, and I know Secretary Rubio has said the same thing.

So my question to you is should we not insist that the UAE stop sending weapons to the RSF when the U.S. Government has found the RSF is committing genocide in Sudan? That is a simple yes or no question.

Ms. BRUCE. Well, sir, I would suggest that, and I appreciate that very much because, obviously, it is an issue that we are all concerned about.

I am here because of President Trump’s point of view and his reliance on what we will be doing if I am confirmed once I am at the U.N. But that is the kind of policy decision that I would not want to get ahead of or remark on when it comes to President Trump’s approach.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Got it. Well, I will be asking the Senate to, you know, move forward on that proposal in the coming days, and I hope we will have a bipartisan outcome.

Ms. BRUCE. Good to know. Yes, sir.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. To Rabbi Kaploun, I think we have all been extremely, extremely concerned about the rise in antisemitism around the world and in the United States.

We, of course, witnessed it here in the Washington area with the killings of two members of the Israeli embassy.

We have seen it in my State of Maryland in terms of attacks on some Jewish small business owners and in other places around the world, and I think we all recognize that we have a united obligation to do everything we can to stop it.

In that regard, I do want to ask you about Donald Trump—President Trump's response to Tucker Carlson's decision to bring Nick Fuentes onto his show, and when the President was asked about it he said, and I am quoting, "I do not know much about him," referring to Nick Fuentes, "but if he wants to do it, get the word out, you know, people have to decide. Ultimately, people have to decide."

Do you think that was a strong enough statement from President Trump to the issue of bringing Fuentes onto that radio platform or that platform?

Mr. KAPLOUN. Thank you very much for your question.

I think the President and the Secretary of State have made it perfectly clear that any type of antisemitism is not a place in America. That is number one, and that is something that guides the Administration's policy as far as being a private civilian.

But if confirmed, that I know is the policy is antisemitism is to be condemned everywhere. Antisemitism is not just an American problem. It is a global problem, and a lot of hatred comes from ignorance. People are not educated.

But freedom of speech is something that is a right, and freedom of expression globally is an important part of what the Administration's policy is.

You have a right to hate, but we have a right to explain and stand up and abhor everything that you say. That is something that is in this country, and it is from our Founding Fathers.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you.

Mr. KAPLOUN. So I believe very strongly that we can condemn remarks whenever they need to be condemned and educate people. We have to go back to my earlier statement when I said we have to educate people to not hate and respect one another and understand the facts.

If we go back, all I ask is—I tell people let them meet American soldiers who liberated the death camps. That is the best answer for any Holocaust denier anywhere.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, if I could give just a follow up.

Senator RISCH. Go ahead.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. So, look, I agree with you that the best way to respond to speech is with speech. I am also a supporter of free speech which is why I have to say it is very worrisome that

the Trump administration has been locking up some students for expressing their views on Gaza.

But my question to you is this. The President did not respond to the statements Nick Fuentes made with speech. I mean, he did not say what he stands for—Nick Fuentes—is outrageous.

And so I would have hoped when asked that the President would take that kind of position, going forward.

Let me just ask you this, and I asked your predecessor, the earlier envoy during the Biden administration, about this.

I mean, you would agree with me that it is not antisemitic or anti-Jewish to criticize the actions of the government of Israel, right?

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

I would refer back to the IHRA definition of what is OK to criticize. You have a right to criticize a country.

But if you are only going to criticize Israel, and that is every statement that you are making, but you are not going to be consistent across the board, in the IHRA definitions it is very, very clear that you need to condemn everything across the board and not just single out Israel. When you single out Israel is when it crosses that line of that it is becoming an antisemitic issue possibly.

If you are going to condemn the killings of Christians in the Sudan or the Uyghurs in China or things that are going on around the globe, and you are going to at that point in time as well condemn something that you do not like about a country, that is fine.

But if you are particularly singling out Israel that becomes a greater issue, and that is not—that is exactly what the IHRA definitions have.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, Mr. Chairman, just if I could.

I think if you look at members of this committee, for example, across the board we have been very clear in condemning human rights violations, from Chinese actions against the Uyghurs to what is happening in Sudan to what is happening in Burma to what is happening in many other places around the world.

But I hope you will agree with me that we should be consistent. In other words, the government of Israel should be held to the same standard that we apply to every other country in the world when it comes to human rights. Do you agree with that?

Mr. KAPLOUN. As I said before, Senator, that the IHRA definition—if people are abiding by that definition to criticize then you—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. No, this is a separate question. No, I am just asking you a separate question, Rabbi.

I mean, you pointed out that we should essentially have the same standard in terms of protection of human rights and justice and self-determination.

Should we apply that equally to Israel as many of us do to other countries and governments around the world?

Mr. KAPLOUN. I believe that the Administration does apply that equally to Israel.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. OK. I think if you look at the inspector general's report that came out of the State Department recently

you will find, not this Administration but the previous Administration, completely failed to do that.

So, look, let us just make this clear. You agree that criticizing the Trump administration is not anti-American. Would you agree with that?

Mr. KAPLOUN. Yes.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. OK. So, in that sense, criticizing the actions of any government, in my view, is an expression of people's values and principles, and we should apply similar standards, going forward, and I hope that we will do that across the board.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Van Hollen.

Thank you to all our witnesses.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Oh, I have one—sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do—I was asked by Congressman Nadler to submit to the record a letter that he and some other members of the House have written to us in opposition to the rabbi's nomination. I am just going to submit it at his request.

Senator RISCH. Yes. As always, those submissions to the committee will be included in the record.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The information referred to above can be found in the "Additional Material Submitted for the Record" section at the end of this document.]

Senator RISCH. So, with that, let me say to each of you thank you so much for being here. Thank you so much for being willing to serve.

I will say you got off a little easy today. This is a pretty big committee, but there is so much other stuff going on they are not here. It has nothing to do with the interest that people have in your nomination. So consider yourselves fortunate at least in that regard.

So with that, before closing I will add any letters of support or otherwise that the committee has received regarding matters before the committee today to be included in the record.

The record will remain open until close of business tomorrow, November 20, for members to submit questions for the record. If any of you get questions for the record I would urge you to immediately respond as it will help move your nominations along.

Again, thank you so much, and with that the committee will be adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO MELISSA ARGYROS BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. How will you engage Latvia on countering Russian hybrid threats in the Baltic Sea, including undersea pipeline and cable sabotage, risks posed by the dangerous shadow fleet, and illegal incursions into allied airspace and waters?

Answer. Latvia understands the threats posed by Russia's hybrid activities in the Baltic Sea. Latvia sees Russia as an existential threat and pushes for credible deterrence and defense within NATO, at the EU, and bilaterally with the United States.

If confirmed, I will work with the Latvian government to continue strengthening our bilateral defense relationship and to ensure that NATO continues to respond appropriately to incursions into its airspace and waters.

Question. Deepening ties between Russia and Iran pose significant risks for Latvia, especially in light of Latvia's decision to impose disruptive airspace restrictions after Russian unmanned aerial systems (UAS) violated Polish airspace. Given Iran's significant development and production of UAS and evidence they provide UAS to Russia, how will you engage with your Latvian counterparts to deny our shared adversaries the means to produce UAS?

Answer. Latvia's economic and political ties with Iran are minimal, with bilateral trade totaling just \$33,000 in 2024. Latvia strongly supports tighter EU sanctions to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions, restrict its support for Russia, and counter its destabilizing regional activities.

If confirmed as Ambassador to Latvia, I will cooperate with the Latvian government and private sector to ensure robust export controls, improved information-sharing, and strong enforcement that prevents sensitive technologies and components from reaching actors threatening U.S.-Latvian security interests, including those producing UAS.

Together with Latvian counterparts, I will support compliance efforts and targeted outreach to manufacturers and transport companies to collectively deny shared adversaries access to dual-use materials.

Question. Latvia is a top contributor to NATO's collective defense, hosts a multinational battlegroup, and continues to invest in its own defense and serve as a force-multiplier for our alliance's modernization efforts. How will you work with the Government to advance the cooperation of our Armed Forces to address pressing threats in the region?

Answer. As NATO Allies and close partners, the United States and Latvia enjoy a robust defense relationship.

Since 1993, members of the Michigan National Guard have conducted combined training and outreach activities with Latvian counterparts through the State Partnership Program. Since 2022, the U.S. Army has maintained heel-to-toe rotational deployments in the Baltic region to reinforce Baltic security, enhance interoperability, and demonstrate the flexibility and combat readiness of U.S. forces.

Latvia was an early supporter of President Trump's push for Allies to spend 5 percent of GDP on defense, is a vocal advocate of the Hague Defense Commitment, and has long been among the very top spenders among NATO Allies. Latvia is also a purchaser of U.S. defense articles and seeks to acquire more, including additional U.S. aircraft, anti-ship missiles, and long-range artillery capabilities.

If confirmed, I will prioritize our robust defense relationship to address pressing threats in the region. Specifically, I will deepen our cooperation on military training in ways that increase the lethality of U.S. forces, promote sales of U.S. defense articles, and ensure Latvia remains a key and vocal advocate to support President Trump's calls for European Allies to increase spending on defense.

Question. Latvia is also a key player in advancing European economic and energy security, including through the Three Seas Initiative. How will you support U.S.-Latvian efforts to increase interconnectivity and economic prosperity to our mutual benefit?

Answer. Latvia is undertaking several major projects supporting increased regional interconnectivity including Rail Baltica and the expansion of Riga Airport. Latvia has received Category 1 rating from the Federal Aviation Administration and is now actively pursuing a direct U.S. flight from Riga.

If confirmed, I will champion commercial advocacy that makes the United States more prosperous while concurrently bolstering Latvia's economic potential and security. In particular, I will support entrepreneurs and startups seeking U.S. partners, explore new investment opportunities, and promote exports to Latvia.

Question. What role can Latvia play in advancing energy security and independence in the region and how can opportunities provided by U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas exports support cooperation on this issue?

Answer. Latvia is a leader in advancing its national and regional energy independence and security. Latvia transitioned fully from Russian gas by January 2023 and disconnected from the Russian-dominated "BRELL" (Belarus, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) electricity grid while connecting to the continental European grid in February 2025.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) plays an important role in Latvia's electricity generation. Since 2023, imports of U.S.-sourced natural gas have increased from zero to

approximately 80 percent of total consumption. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our energy partnership by supporting longer-term LNG contracts with U.S. suppliers while encouraging Latvia to utilize U.S.-sourced diesel for its strategic fuel reserves.

Despite the government's increased efforts, in the State Department's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report Latvia remained on Tier 2 for failures to investigate trafficking crimes, convict traffickers, and establish a centralized National Referral Mechanism.

Question. If confirmed, what concrete steps would you take to help Latvia operationalize the prioritized recommendations contained in the Trafficking in Persons Report?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Latvian authorities to implement the recommendations outlined in the 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report, with a particular focus on increasing prosecution and conviction of traffickers under Latvia's anti-trafficking statute, including through encouraging expansion of training for officials involved in judicial proceedings on all forms of trafficking and the application of anti-trafficking laws.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to honest reporting of the trafficking situation in Latvia as it pertains to the country narrative in the Trafficking in Persons Report?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work in close coordination with my local team and the Government of Latvia to combat trafficking with the highest level of responsibility and dedication, as well as ensure honest reporting of the trafficking situation in Latvia.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO MELISSA ARGYROS BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Baltic Security

Question. Do you agree that a U.S. presence on NATO's Eastern Flank is critical to deterring Russian aggression and if confirmed, do you commit to advocating for a continued U.S. presence along the Eastern Flank?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do all that I can to support the administration's continued commitment to deterring Russia on NATO's eastern flank as part of the NATO Alliance. The United States is already helping our NATO Allies in this endeavor, including with Eastern Sentry, to defend and deter against Russian incursions into NATO airspace. In October 2025, Secretary Hegseth declared that "the U.S. War Department stands ready to do our part in ways that only the United States can do."

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO MELISSA ARGYROS BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Latvia, alongside other Baltic states, faces persistent hybrid threats from Russia, including disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, and disinformation campaigns. NATO and the European Union have made critical investments toward deterrence. It is in U.S. security interest to do the same.

Question. If confirmed, how would you work with the Latvian government and NATO allies to strengthen resilience against hybrid attacks?

Answer. Latvia understands the threats posed by Russia's hybrid activities in the Baltic Sea. Latvia sees Russia as an existential threat and pushes for credible deterrence and defense within NATO, at the EU, and bilaterally with the United States.

If confirmed, I will work with the Latvian government to continue strengthening our bilateral defense relationship and to ensure that NATO continues to respond appropriately to incursions into its airspace and waters.

Latvia has grown increasingly cautious about engagement with the People's Republic of China (PRC). For example, it withdrew from the 17+1, a forum China launched to deepen cooperation with countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Question. Given Latvia's decision to step back from PRC-led initiatives, how would you ensure that Latvia views the United States as a reliable balance for economic opportunities while maintaining strategic caution toward the PRC?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to continue to deepen economic cooperation with Latvia by prioritizing U.S. engagement in energy security, trusted technology, and high-standard investments. I would support Latvia's efforts to evaluate Chinese foreign investment risks, build supply chain resilience, and continue to coordinate and align with us on China-related policies. By combining steady U.S. commitment with shared strategic awareness, I will, if confirmed, help Latvia pursue growth without compromising security.

Energy security is a top priority for Latvia, especially after Russia's weaponization of gas supplies. Latvia has invested in regional liquified natural gas (LNG) infrastructure, including cooperation with Lithuania's Klapeda terminal and plans for expanded capacity.

Question. What role do you see for U.S. LNG exports in strengthening Latvia's energy security?

Answer. Latvia is a leader in advancing its national and regional energy independence and security. Latvia transitioned fully from Russian gas by January 2023 and disconnected from the Russian-dominated "BRELL" (Belarus, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) electricity grid while connecting to the continental European grid in February 2025.

Liquified natural gas (LNG) plays an important role in Latvia's electricity generation. Since 2023, imports of U.S.-sourced natural gas have increased from zero to approximately 80 percent of total consumption. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our energy partnership by supporting longer-term LNG contracts with U.S. suppliers while encouraging Latvia to utilize U.S.-sourced diesel for its strategic fuel reserves.

Question. If confirmed, how would you encourage deeper regional cooperation or infrastructure and diversification?

Answer. Latvia is undertaking several major projects supporting increased regional interconnectivity including Rail Baltica and the expansion of Riga Airport. Latvia has received Category 1 rating from the Federal Aviation Administration and is now actively pursuing a direct U.S. flight from Riga.

If confirmed, I will champion commercial advocacy that makes the United States more prosperous while concurrently bolstering Latvia's economic potential and security. In particular, I will support entrepreneurs and startups seeking U.S. partners, explore new investment opportunities, and promote exports to Latvia.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO TAMMY BRUCE BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. If confirmed, you are joining an elite team at our mission in New York who is already making significant inroads on U.N. reform. What will be your top priority to capitalize on this success?

Answer. My top priority is to ensure U.S. leadership at the U.N. reflects the values and interests of the American people. That means advancing policies that protect our sovereignty, promote our security, and deliver results.

It also means aggressively advocating for organizations to return to their core mandates and founding purposes, eliminating redundant mandates, and significantly streamlining the U.N. budget and staff footprint.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the talented team in New York to make these goals a reality.

Question. The Security Council recently endorsed, strongly, President Trump's 20-point peace plan. This is a rare stroke of consensus in the Council. In your view, is the Security Council in need of reform? Why or why not?

Answer. While the United States has achieved important policy objectives at the U.N. Security Council under President Trump, the reality is that the institution has not lived up to its mission or potential. If confirmed, I will work with the U.S. Mission team to ensure the United States assesses any proposal for changes by the metric of whether it advances American interests and would make the UNSC more effective and efficient. I will work to ensure our commitments to international organizations make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you will prioritize recruiting and retaining qualified Americans at all levels of the U.N. system, with an emphasis on the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program and at senior positions in technical agencies that are of strategic importance to the United States.

Answer. If confirmed, I will continue efforts, in coordination with the White House, to increase U.S. representation at all levels in the U.N. system to promote America First principles, and advance a safer, stronger, and more prosperous America.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you will counter malign influence from the Chinese Communist Party and promote U.S. and likeminded interests in the U.N. system.

Answer. China wields influence throughout the U.N. system by placing Chinese nationals within all levels of the U.N. bureaucracy, attempting to reshape global governance to reflect its authoritarian vision, and building China-centric platforms for international cooperation. The United States cannot allow these efforts to continue.

If confirmed, I will work with our partners and allies to counter China's influence across the U.N. system and champion reforms that improve efficiency and effectiveness in line with American values. I will confront CCP ideological language in resolutions, promote U.S. interests in standard-setting bodies, and push back against the CCP's exploitative inroads in developing countries.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO TAMMY BRUCE BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

UN Peacekeeping

Question. Earlier this year, the Trump Administration clawed back more than \$800 million in U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping missions, forcing the U.N. to slash its peacekeeping budget by 15 percent and troop levels by 25 percent globally. Will you advocate for the Administration to pay its mandatory peacekeeping dues in full?

Answer. The United States has historically paid more than its fair share for peacekeeping activities. Peacekeeping operations must adapt to meet the needs of the moment and deliver results. I believe peacekeeping missions need to be more efficient and effective to ensure they deliver a higher return on our investment. President Trump has made that clear.

If confirmed, I will work with the Department to strengthen and reform U.N. peacekeeping and work to find efficient ways to address long-standing conflicts.

UNICEF

Question. Earlier this year, the Trump Administration terminated more than \$130 million for UNICEF calling into question the Administration's support for UNICEF's work helping children globally. Will you commit to supporting UNICEF's work to combat child marriage and female genital mutilation?

Answer. Supporting children and families strengthens the foundation of any society. The Trump Administration has been clear on the importance of child protection, education, and well-being. Investing in children is a proven strategy for ensuring American security, solidifying American strength, and increasing American prosperity.

The President, through an Executive Order, has ordered a review of U.S. participation in all international intergovernmental organizations of which the United States is a member and provides funding or other support—including UNICEF. If confirmed, I look forward to implementing the President's orders and will support U.S. participation in international organizations which advance American interests with clarity and conviction.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO TAMMY BRUCE BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

Earlier this week, the U.N. Security Council delivered a 13-0 vote in favor of a U.S.-sponsored resolution endorsing President Trump's 20-Point Peace Plan for Gaza. Even the New York Times hailed it as a "major breakthrough," marking a pivotal diplomatic victory that reinforces American

leadership and influence at the United Nations. In his September address to the U.N. General Assembly, President Trump candidly critiqued the U.N. for falling short of its vast potential. Today, this outcome stands as concrete proof of what the United Nations can achieve when guided by strong American leadership.

Question. Ms. Bruce, how does the U.S. delegation to the U.N. intend to leverage this moment to reassert American leadership at the U.N. and in what ways does this resolution set a precedent for future U.S.-brokered peace initiatives at the United Nations, particularly when facing divergent views among permanent Security Council members?

Answer. If confirmed, my top priority is to ensure U.S. leadership at the U.N. reflects the values and interests of the American people. That means advancing policies that protect our sovereignty, promote our security, and deliver results.

President Trump has said that there have to be new ideas: the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2803 is a perfect example of that. Resolution 2803 demonstrates the overwhelming support for President Trump's vision for a stable Gaza where Palestinians determine their own destiny, free from terrorist rule and violence.

If confirmed, I will continue to build on this momentum to aggressively build stronger, more vocal like-minded coalitions on key priorities, as well as promote qualified Americans in leadership roles.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO TAMMY BRUCE BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Although there are valid arguments for the United Nations to operate more efficiently, it and its associated bodies are a venue for the United States to strategically engage with international partners to further our shared interests and values. The Trump Administration's volatile relationship with international forums such as the United Nations complicates our ability to have a seat at the table.

Question. If confirmed, what reforms or alternative approaches on increasing efficiency of the United Nations would you pursue?

Answer. My top priority is to ensure U.S. leadership at the U.N. reflects the values and interests of the American people. That means advancing policies that protect our sovereignty, promote our security, and deliver results.

It also means aggressively advocating for international organizations to return to their core mandates and founding purposes, eliminating redundant mandates, and significantly streamlining the U.N. budget and staff footprint.

If confirmed, my team and I will do everything we can to make sure other countries pay their fair share. I will work with allies and partners to ensure that burden-sharing is not just a talking point, but a reality.

Question. Are there any areas of the United Nations' work that you would look to enhance or expand?

Answer. The U.N. is bloated, and reforms should result in a leaner organization that directs resources to outcomes and not bureaucracy.

For example, we need to bring common sense to the compensation and benefits package for U.N. employees.

Humanitarian assistance needs to be faster, leaner, and more accountable. This could be achieved through coordinated procurement, shared logistics, and global/country-level shared services to reduce duplication of effort.

The human rights pillar is also rife with duplication. The U.N. should reduce the number of mandate holders and Special Rapporteurs.

Mandates should be created to solve problems, not live forever. When a mandate has achieved its goal, it should conclude. This is not failure, this is success.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the talented team in New York to make these goals a reality.

Question. If so, which ones, and on what basis do you believe U.S. participation is in the U.S. national interest?

Answer. As President Trump has said, the U.N. has tremendous potential. There has to be one place in the world where every nation can come together to talk. The United Nations should be that forum, and under President Trump's leadership, it can be again.

UN bodies set standards for AI, civil aviation, space, telecommunications, and international shipping. In these cases, the United States needs to be present to block initiatives from China and other strategic competitors that promote authoritarian norms or undermine U.S. interests.

If confirmed, I will work to keep globalist, multinational governments out of the way of setting standards that impact American businesses and U.S. interests. I will champion reforms to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the U.N. system and continue to counter China's influence through strong American leadership.

Our first duty is to the American people to ensure taxpayer dollars are invested wisely and effectively. If confirmed, I will work to hold the U.N. accountable and advance our priorities.

Question. Do you believe that U.N. aid to children and those in dire need around the world is something the U.S. should continue to support?

Answer. As Secretary Rubio has stated, the United States is the most generous country in the world. However, the United States has carried a disproportionate share of humanitarian assistance; a role that is not sustainable.

If confirmed, I am committed to maintaining our influence in the U.N. system and advancing U.S. interests to ensure our nation is safer, more secure, and more prosperous.

The United States expects capable countries to increase their share of the burden of life-saving foreign aid globally. If confirmed, I will prioritize these efforts.

Question. If not, why do you believe that U.N. aid to children and those in dire need around the world is not something the U.S. should continue to support?

Answer. I recognize the critical nature of life-saving assistance, but the United States has carried a disproportionate share of foreign assistance; a role that is not sustainable.

If confirmed, I will uphold the U.S. commitment to providing lifesaving aid while advancing U.S. strategic priorities.

The United States is not turning its back on people in need—rather it's turning its back on an antiquated system where the U.S. was the world's bank and countries were never held to account for the crises they cause and can control.

Question. What impact will substantial reduction in our contributions to the U.N. and its associated organizations have on U.S. influence at the UN?

Answer. The United States has consistently paid more than any other country into the U.N. system, and I will work to ensure that this contribution remains aligned with our national interest.

I will press for equitable burden sharing by engaging directly with other major contributors and emerging economies to encourage them to take on greater responsibility consistent with their economic capacity.

Through active diplomacy, strategic alliances, and firm negotiating positions, I will work to protect the interests of U.S. taxpayers and ensure that the U.N. remains both effective and accountable.

Question. Do you believe that U.N. peacekeeping operations are something the U.S. should continue to fund?

Answer. The United States has historically paid more than its fair share for peacekeeping activities.

Peacekeeping operations must adapt to meet the needs of the moment and deliver results. I believe peacekeeping missions need to be more efficient and effective to ensure they deliver a higher return on our investment. President Trump has made that clear.

If confirmed, I will work with the Department of State to reform U.N. peacekeeping and work to find efficient ways to address long-standing conflicts.

If confirmed, I am committed to evaluating all existing peacekeeping missions to make those that should continue as efficient and effective as possible and to eliminating missions that are no longer necessary.

Question. If not, what are the alternatives that do not cause increased expenditures or U.S. military deployments?

Answer. UN peacekeeping can be a valuable tool in efforts to maintain international peace and security, but we must reform it. We must press the U.N. to reduce costs, demand accountability, and increase transparency.

If confirmed, I will press for fairer burden sharing and to encourage all countries to contribute more toward global peace and security.

I will also support efforts to make peacekeeping missions more efficient and results-driven so that available resources are used wisely and in ways that deliver real impact.

If confirmed, I will ensure the 25 percent cap on U.S. contributions to U.N. peacekeeping is adhered to, as required by U.S. law.

Due to their small size, most Pacific Island countries do not have embassies in Washington, DC, only U.N. missions, making that a crucial venue to engage these countries.

Question. As a part of our security strategy in Asia, do you commit to using your platform to fully engage the Pacific Island countries if confirmed?

Answer. Yes. Doing so is both the right thing to do and advances American interests at the United Nations, as Pacific Island countries are often partners in key U.N. votes and initiatives.

Question. Climate change is an existential risk for some Pacific Island countries—if confirmed, do you commit to partnering with these countries to help protect them from destructive weather events and sea level rise, including through resilient port, airfield, and other infrastructure, where it is in U.S. national security interest to do so?

Answer. I am committed to maintaining U.S. influence in the U.N. system and advancing U.S. interests to ensure our nation is safer, stronger, and more prosperous. I will work with countries and partners where it is in the U.S. national security interest to do so.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO TAMMY BRUCE BY SENATOR JACKY ROSEN

Support for the UN's Lifesaving Work: In September, President Trump told the U.N. General Assembly that the United Nations only writes strongly worded letters and accused it of inaction. The Administration has also celebrated historic cuts to critical U.N. programs, including over \$800 million from peacekeeping operations and activities and more than \$140 million in life-saving support for UNICEF, which is working to keep over 100 million children under the age of five from starvation.

Question. If confirmed as Deputy Representative to the United Nations, how will you ensure that the U.N. has the necessary support and resources to continue saving lives?

Answer. My top priority is to ensure every U.S. taxpayer dollar spent at the U.N. furthers U.S. interests. The American people deserve that. Other countries need to pay more. The United States remains by far the largest funder of the U.N.—it is time for other Member states to step up.

If confirmed, my team and I will do everything we can to make sure other countries pay their fair share. I will work with allies and partners to ensure that burden-sharing is not just a talking point, but a reality. I will work with other major donors and our Management and Reform section to ensure that process efficiencies target chronic bloat, without sacrificing services that are meant to save lives.

The United States is not turning its back on people in need—rather it is turning its back on an antiquated system where the United States was the world's bank and countries were never held to account for the crises they cause and can control.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO RABBI YEHUDA KAPLON BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. If confirmed, how will you use the resources available to you to respond to the ongoing antisemitism at the UN? Is reforming the U.N. in this way possible?

Answer. The United States will not tolerate the pervasive anti-Israel bias and antisemitism at the U.N. The United States's decision to halt all funding to UNRWA, to withdraw from UNHRC and UNESCO, and to sanction U.N. Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese are important steps to show that the United States will not be part of or support organizations or bodies where antisemitism thrives. If confirmed, I will work closely with my counterparts at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Bureau of International Organizations to hold the U.N. accountable.

Question. If confirmed, you will have an extremely broad mandate that is bolstered by President Trump’s bold statement that religious freedom is crucial to U.S. national security. What will be your top priority to achieve this mandate?

Answer. Among other approaches, we must work with foreign countries to help ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities. We must: urge countries to appoint national coordinators for countering antisemitism; promote education about the Holocaust and the antisemitism that enabled it; and enact policies that protect Jews from harm. Finally, we must urge foreign governments to increase resources and training for law enforcement personnel to be able to identify, address—and, wherever possible, prevent—antisemitic hate crimes.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO RABBI YEHUDA KAPLOUN BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Condemning Anti-Semitism on the Political Right

Question. You have been publicly critical of Democrats, claiming last year that “Unfortunately, right now, even in the halls of Congress, there are members who believe that it is OK for Jews to be killed—for women to be raped, tortured, children butchered, babies murdered in their cribs.” Do you commit to refraining from this type of divisive rhetoric, if confirmed?

Answer. I will be a voice to combat antisemitism everywhere regardless of the source.

Question. One of your fellow nominees has amplified social media posts that referred to Jews as “monkeys” and attempted to justify the October 7th attacks by saying reports of sexual violence perpetuated by Hamas were “lies and deception”. Do you consider these statements to be anti-Semitic?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Will you publicly call out anti-Semitism wherever you see it, including within the Trump Administration?

Answer. I will be a voice to combat antisemitism everywhere regardless of the source.

Personal Loan

Question. In your 278 financial disclosure, you report a \$100,000 loan from Miriam Adelson that you are currently in the process of repaying with interest. Do you commit to updating the Committee once the loan agreement has been fulfilled, and engaging in meaningful consultations with career ethics lawyers at the State Department to ensure this loan adheres to all ethics standards?

Answer. I commit to complying with all ethical requirements applicable to my role, if I am honored to be confirmed.

Question. How will you ensure this loan and your close relationship with Adelson family does not create a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest, if confirmed?

Answer. I commit to complying with all ethical requirements applicable to my role, if I am honored to be confirmed.

Question. For example, will you commit to refraining from work or advocacy as Special Envoy that would benefit or appear to benefit the Adelson family?

Answer. I commit to complying with all ethical requirements applicable to my role, if I am honored to be confirmed.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO RABBI YEHUDA KAPLOUN BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

When I talk to my Jewish constituents in Pennsylvania, I often hear that they feel that the world is shrinking for them. The list of countries they can travel to where they feel safe wearing a kippah or otherwise outwardly identifying as Jewish is becoming smaller and smaller. This trend is particularly stark in Europe. Frankly, some of the stories coming out of European cities, universities, and governments makes me feel like little has changed over the last few centuries.

Question. Rabbi Kaploun, you've been outspoken about the need for the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to move beyond symbolism to achieve tangible global results for the Jewish people. If confirmed, how would you approach the role to ensure it effectively counters this latest surge of antisemitic violence and discrimination, particularly in Europe?

Answer. If confirmed, I would bring to bear the influence of the United States to encourage governments in Europe and elsewhere to: (1) enhance measures to ensure the physical safety of their Jewish communities; (2) allocate resources and provide training to properly investigate and prosecute antisemitic hate crimes; and, most importantly, (3) improve education to prevent antisemitism and other forms of hatred.

Question. What specific strategies do you intend to employ to effectively collaborate with international partners and civil society institutions representing local Jewish communities to address the rise of global antisemitism?

Answer. First and foremost, if confirmed, I would consult closely with Jewish communities to obtain their critical perspectives on what is taking place in their countries to inform my engagements with government officials. In addition, I would coordinate with civil society organizations, special envoy counterparts in foreign countries, and other international partners to form robust coalitions to counter the ongoing surge in global antisemitism.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO RABBI YEHUDA KAPLOUN BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Europe has seen a sharp rise in antisemitism incidents over the past 2 years—violence, harassment, and the mainstreaming of rhetoric that threatens Jewish safety and civic participation. Organizations like the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), including its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), have been essential partners in protecting Jewish communities, especially in countries where direct U.S. engagement is limited.

Question. If confirmed, how do you plan to deepen U.S. engagement with these international entities?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work closely with my counterparts at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the Bureau of International Organizations, and the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs to ensure that international organizations focus on and are fit for their founding purpose: to promote international peace and security. I am willing to work with any responsible governmental or international organization to promote education against antisemitism and other forms of hatred.

Question. If confirmed, how will you ensure that these institutions remain reliable, proactive partners in combatting antisemitism—not just in moments of crisis but in building long-term protections for Jewish communities?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with responsible international organizations (IOs) and member states to fight hatred against Jews and threats against Jewish communities. My door will be open. We will hold governments and IOs accountable.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO RABBI YEHUDA KAPLOUN BY SENATOR JACKY ROSEN

Addressing Global Antisemitism: As the co-founder and co-chair of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, I take seriously my responsibility to fight against this hatred wherever it arises, and I am proud to have championed legislation that was signed into law to elevate the Special Envoy role to the rank of Ambassador. If confirmed, you will have a title commensurate with the enormous responsibility of your role: combating the rise of global antisemitism, which has skyrocketed since the October 7th terrorist attack on Israel.

I have had the honor of working collaboratively with Special Envoys from Republican and Democratic administrations and maintaining this bipartisan tradition is critical to the role's success. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared priorities.

Question. While it is also vital to address domestic antisemitism, the role you are nominated for requires you to be singularly focused on combating the rise of global antisemitism. Given this, do I have your commitment to focus the totality of your work on the critical task of combating antisemitism that occurs outside our borders, as the statute creating this position requires?

Answer. If confirmed, I will fulfill my responsibilities consistent with the statutory mandate to combat “anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.”

I am grateful for the bicameral and bipartisan support Congress has shown for the role of the Special Envoy and the mission of the SEAS office. If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with you and the Senate and House Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism.

Question. Far-right antisemitism from the U.S. and Europe—particularly via networks like the Groeyers and figures like Nick Fuentes—is spreading internationally, influencing political parties in Germany, Hungary, Poland, and beyond. If confirmed, how will you confront far-right antisemitism when doing so may require publicly challenging governments that our own administration considers political allies?

Answer. Antisemitism originates from all sides of the political spectrum and from nearly every corner of the world. It must be condemned wherever and whenever it appears.

Question. Iran and its proxies have conducted assassination plots against Jews in Europe, attempted synagogue burnings, and incited violence across the globe. Russia weaponizes antisemitic conspiracies in its propaganda operations. Islamist extremist networks spread anti-Jewish ideology and mobilize attacks. What is your plan to confront these transnational, state-directed antisemitic threats, and how will you work with allies to expose and disrupt foreign influence operations targeting Jewish communities?

Answer. I am alarmed by efforts of foreign malign actors including Iran to sponsor antisemitic incidents abroad. If confirmed, I will strengthen efforts within the Department of State and deepen cooperation with allies to identify and counter these growing threats.

Question. Global Guidelines for Combatting Antisemitism: Your predecessor, Ambassador Lipstadt, launched the Global Guidelines for Combating Antisemitism last year. The guidelines provide governments, civil society organizations, and other international bodies with a framework to formulate and advance policies to combat antisemitism.

Do you think the global guidelines can serve as a productive vehicle for combating antisemitism outside of our borders, and will you commit to continuing their implementation if you are confirmed?

Answer. The Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism provide structure and guidance for effective policymaking. If confirmed, I will urge governments to endorse this framework.

Question. US Refugee Resettlement Program: For decades, the US has allowed Iranian Jews and other religious minorities to escape persecution through the US Refugee Resettlement program. President Trump banned entry of Iranian Jewish refugees—and all other legal refugees—with his 90-day suspension of the resettlement program, now in its 303rd day.

Will you advocate for the resumption of resettlement for Iranian religious minorities?

Answer. Thank you for raising this important issue. I am deeply concerned by the ongoing repression targeting Iran’s Jewish population and other religious minorities. If confirmed, I will work with those in the administration who have responsibilities for refugee issues to make sure that the concerns of vulnerable communities are fully considered, and I will also work hard to hold the Iranian regime accountable.

Question. If resettlement of Iranian religious minorities does not resume, how do you think Iranian Jews will be affected when they face the highest levels of antisemitism in recent history?

Answer. Again, thank you for this important question. As I have said, I am deeply concerned by the ongoing repression targeting Iran’s Jewish population and other religious minorities. If confirmed, I promise to monitor the safety of these vulnerable communities and welcome your input should concerns come to your attention.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DARRYL NIRENBERG BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. Russian provocations have made it clear that European allies need to develop new defenses against drones and other new offensive threats. How can the U.S. and Romania work together to address this issue, and how can it benefit U.S. efforts to develop our own Golden Dome air defense system to defend the homeland?

Answer. Romania and the United States enjoy a strong bilateral defense partnership and, as NATO Allies, are closely consulting in Brussels to adapt to offensive threats. Through operations such as NATO's Eastern Sentry, we are developing lessons learned on drone incursions—including those that have entered into or landed on Romanian airspace and territory—and procuring new technologies to counter these threats. U.S. industry continues to provide a range of integrated air defense solutions to protect Romania's sovereignty. Most recently, Romania and Poland procured and successfully tested the U.S.-made Merops counter-drone system, a key technology used in Ukraine that has proven both deadly and effective. If confirmed, I will continue to work with Romanian counterparts to successfully counter threats from Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Question. Romania has large gas reserves in the Black Sea, which can be extracted and used to support European energy security with the help of U.S. companies already working in the sector. How will you engage Romania on energy cooperation to advance European energy security and support broader efforts to eliminate dependence on Russian energy exports, especially in the vulnerable energy market of South East Europe?

Answer. Romania has been an excellent and longstanding partner on efforts to move Europe away from Russian energy dependence. Thanks to our close cooperation, U.S. companies have a leading role in helping develop Romania's energy resources, including nuclear and natural gas, to support greater regional energy security. If confirmed, I will focus on continued development of Romania's energy resources so it can be a provider to European neighbors and will work to keep American technologies and companies at the front of the line. I will also continue to work with Romania to champion efforts like the Vertical Corridor which will provide opportunities for U.S. LNG suppliers as well as provide alternatives to Russian gas to the entire region.

Question. Romania's entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program was rescinded earlier this year. How will you work with pertinent officials in the Romanian and U.S. governments to address any outstanding issues and get them back on track to join the program?

Answer. Romania is a close partner on border security, law enforcement, and counterterrorism. If confirmed, I will continue to deepen our cooperation on these issues, in addition to ensuring that this Administration's focus on border and immigration security results in continued strengthening of the homeland. I understand that Romania may be reconsidered for VWP designation in the future should they meet the statutory eligibility criteria and will work closely with Department of Homeland Security colleagues on addressing this aspiration.

Question. Romania has been an outstanding partner both increasing its defense spending and purchasing U.S. Military equipment. In addition, it has spent considerable resources to upgrade facilities to host U.S. and NATO forces. What will you do to ensure U.S. commitments to Romania are honored going forward?

Answer. The United States remains fully committed to the U.S.-Romania strategic partnership and will honor all defense obligations. Romania's increased defense spending—including on F-35s and M1A1 Abrams Tanks—military modernization, and infrastructure investments will be met by continued U.S. military presence, joint exercises, and delivery of advanced equipment such as the PATRIOT system and HIMARS. High-level strategic consultations, such as the visit of Assistant Secretary of War Zimmerman to Romania earlier this week, will ensure we are working closely together on NATO and bilateral planning, reinforcing this vital partnership.

Question. In light of the Department of War's decision to withdraw a significant portion of U.S. troop presence in Romania, how will you work to advance defense cooperation and signal the U.S.'s continued commitment to bilateral security issues and coordinate on Romania's role in NATO strategic planning?

Answer. The United States remains committed to Romania's security regardless of adjustments to troop rotations. Approximately 1,000 U.S. troops remain stationed in Romania. We also continue to support Romania as it modernizes its military and integrates into NATO initiatives like the European Sky Shield. If confirmed, I will

work to ensure Romania's strategic position on NATO's Eastern Flank remains central to regional defense planning, and that expanded facilities like Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base continue to serve as critical logistics hubs for NATO operations.

Question. Romania's national security strategy highlights cooperation with the United States as a key pillar. How will you work to advance intelligence cooperation between the U.S. and Romania, especially with regard to countering Russian threats in the region?

Answer. We have a strong strategic partnership with Romania across all domains, including intelligence, and I intend to deepen this work across every area if confirmed. My approach will build on the close and collaborative relationships we have built across the Romanian government and society and our work within NATO and bilaterally to adapt to emerging threats.

Question. How will you work to advance bilateral economic relations with Romania as well as Romania's role in developing regional connectivity along the North-South corridor from Southeast Europe to the Baltics?

Answer. The United States is a key economic partner for Romania, and the United States is the fourth largest investor. If confirmed, I will continue to support efforts that balance trade, increase investment opportunities for American companies—especially those that create jobs in the United States—and ensure a level economic playing field that showcases American excellence and ingenuity.

In addition, I will continue to advocate for initiatives that build regional connectivity to support U.S. economic and foreign policy goals. I will work to support efforts such as protection of critical infrastructure, the advancement of the Vertical Corridor, and the further development of digitalization with U.S. expertise to achieve greater regional connectivity. Senior Administration participation at the Three Seas Initiative earlier this year demonstrates that building connectivity is a major priority.

Question. Romania has been an outstanding partner both increasing its defense spending and purchasing U.S. Military equipment. In addition, it has spent considerable resources to upgrade facilities to host U.S. and NATO forces. What will you do to ensure U.S. commitments to Romania are honored going forward?

Answer. I am confident that under this Administration, Romania's leadership as a NATO Ally will continue to be met with sustained U.S. commitments. The United States and Romania, along with other NATO Allies, conduct regular joint exercises and leverage Romania's upgraded facilities for NATO operations. If confirmed, I will ensure Romania's cooperation on defense corresponds with own commitments and look forward to working to strengthen our shared defense goals.

Question. Deepening ties between Russia and Iran pose significant risks for Romania, especially in light of Russian unmanned aerial systems (UAS) violations of Romanian airspace and Iran's significant development and production of UAS. How will you engage with your Romanian counterparts to deny our shared adversaries the means to produce UAS?

Answer. The United States has and will continue to work closely with Romania to counter drone threats through intelligence sharing, sanctions, and enhanced defenses. Romania's hosting of NATO and U.S. troops and of the Aegis Ashore ballistic missile defense system helps our Alliance respond and deter to continued and emerging threats to NATO airspace. If confirmed, I will strengthen cooperation against our adversaries on defense industrial issues in addition to the other areas of partnership which we enjoy.

In the State Department's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report, Romania remained on Tier 2 despite increased efforts to enhance its anti-trafficking capacity. Among the areas of concern was negligence by relevant authorities, including the exploitation of children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

Question. If confirmed, what concrete steps would you take to help Romania operationalize the prioritized recommendations contained in the Trafficking in Persons Report?

Answer. The Romanian government has demonstrated improvement in anti-trafficking efforts, including identifying more victims and adopting a new national action plan and strategy to combat trafficking. However, trafficking remains a significant problem in Romania, which is one of the primary source countries of human trafficking in the EU.

I understand the U.S. Government works closely with Romania on law enforcement, judiciary training, and victim assistance programs. The Department signed a 5-year Child Protection Compact Partnership earlier this month underscoring the U.S.-Romania commitment on this issue. If confirmed, I will prioritize engaging with the Romanian government and civil society actors to continue their efforts to combat trafficking.

In the State Department's 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom, Romania had concerning anti-Semitic incidents and discrimination against other minority groups, including the Greek Catholic Church.

Question. What is your assessment of these issues, and if confirmed how will you work with the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom to support religious freedom in-country?

Answer. As State Department reporting demonstrates, concerning issues of anti-semitism in Romania reflect a wider trend across Europe. One of the keys to addressing the issue is education, in which Romania has made great strides, including by mandating education on the Holocaust in the national high school curriculum. Construction of the long-delayed Romanian National Holocaust Museum would be one powerful symbol of the government's commitment to fighting antisemitism. Once operational, the Museum will be an indispensable resource to advance education. I am also encouraged by Romania's membership in the Article 18 Alliance, a group of governments including the United States, committed to cooperating in the promotion of religious freedom globally. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to ensure the annual IRF Report remains the gold standard metric of religious freedom conditions around the world, including in Romania, and conveying to my Romanian counterparts President Trump's clear message that "freedom of religion forms the foundation of free Government." I will also engage directly with religious leaders to build mutual understanding and promote the resolution of problems.

Question. If confirmed, what concrete steps will you take to help Romania increase societal and governmental respect for religious freedom?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to productive discussions with my Romanian counterparts to convey President Trump's clear message that "freedom of religion forms the foundation of free Government." I would welcome and facilitate engagement on Romanian issues by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, and the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

The State Department's 2024 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Romania noted "significant human rights issues included credible reports of restrictions on freedom of expression, and crimes, violence or threats of violence motivated by antisemitism."

Question. If confirmed, how will you lead your embassy staff to engage with civil society to improve the human rights situation in Romania?

Answer. Civil society is an important partner in providing insight into the human rights conditions in Romania. If confirmed, I will ensure that U.S. Embassy staff engage with a range of civil society groups representing a full spectrum of perspectives on priority issues, including freedom of expression. Our discussions and findings will be reflected in further Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, as mandated by Congress.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DARRYL NIRENBERG BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

U.S.-Romania Relations

Question. Despite Romania's exemplary support as a U.S. ally, the Pentagon abruptly announced the withdrawal of some of our troops from Romania seemingly with little notice or coordination. Do you concur that Romania is an exemplary ally and do you support the continued presence of U.S. troops in Romania?

Answer. As Ambassador Whitaker said following the decision, "The United States remains committed to Romania—as a trusted NATO Ally, a vital strategic partner, and a driving force for security in Europe." He made clear "[T]he U.S. commitment to NATO and Article 5 remains unchanged, and the United States continues to have a strong combat presence in Romania of nearly 1,000 personnel." This was re-

affirmed by our mission at the U.N. which stated: "The U.S. commitment to Romania and its security remains ironclad and we commend Romania's regional and international leadership."

Assistant Secretary for War Zimmerman visited Romania November 18, and the Pentagon released a November 19 statement underscoring that U.S. posture decisions are a reflection of NATO Allies' tremendous progress in bolstering their own defense and deterrence capabilities. The U.S. commitment to NATO and Article 5 remains unchanged, and the United States continues to have a strong and flexible presence in Romania, including at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase, the U.S. Navy Aegis Ashore Ballistic Missile Defense System hosted at Deveselu, and the Air Force MQ-9 reapers at Campia Turzii Airbase. I am confident that our bilateral defense relationship will continue to thrive, and will work to support the continued presence of U.S. troops in Romania if confirmed.

Question. The Department of Homeland Security revoked Romania's eligibility for the Visa Waiver Program just days before Romania's Presidential election this year. Do you view the Visa Waiver Program criteria as a technical process that should require apolitical analysis?

Answer. It is my understanding that the Department of Homeland Security rescinded Romania's Visa Waiver Program designation in light of this Administration's focus on border and immigration security. Romania remains a strong partner on border security, law enforcement, and counterterrorism. If confirmed, I will continue to deepen our cooperation on these issues to ensure that this Administration's focus on border and immigration security results in continued strengthening of the homeland.

Question. Do you commit to reviewing the decision to revoke Romania's participation in the visa waiver program, if confirmed?

Answer. I understand that Romania may be reconsidered for VWP designation in the future should they meet the statutory eligibility criteria and will work closely with Administration leadership and Department of Homeland Security colleagues on addressing this aspiration, if confirmed.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DARRYL NIRENBERG BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

Mr. Nirenberg, in the explanatory statement accompanying the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of State is directed to submit to Congress a strategy for working with NATO allies to deepen economic ties with, and strengthen economic and security assistance for, Black Sea states, including efforts to bolster democratic resilience.

Question. If confirmed, what would be your vision for how the U.S. and our NATO allies can strengthen energy security and economic cooperation with Romania to enhance our alliance and to mitigate the impact of economic coercion by Russia?

Answer. The United States and Romania enjoy strong bilateral ties, and I look forward to enhancing our energy security and economic cooperation if confirmed.

Energy Secretary Wright and Interior Secretary Bergum recently met with Romania's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister and discussed energy security and the strengthening of Romanian-American cooperation in the field of energy at the regional level. As a sign of our growing cooperation, Secretary Wright and his Romanian and other regional counterparts agreed on the importance of unlocking the enormous potential of the Vertical Corridor to supply the region with natural gas and diversify energy sources. Romania is also working with the United States on continued steps to cut off Russian energy linkages, including complying with the most recent sanctions on Lukoil. Romania has consistently allocated more than 2 percent of GDP on defense and is a security provider on the Black Sea, working with other NATO Allies in the region to increase capabilities and deter Russia. If confirmed, I will focus on continued development of Romania's energy resources so it can be a provider to European neighbors and will work to keep American technologies and companies at the front of the line and work to strengthen our bonds and identify new opportunities to enhance cooperation against Russian coercion.

Late last month it was widely reported that the Romanian Ministry of National Defense was informed about the Department of War's decision to cease the rotation of a brigade of American troops deployed to Romania as part of the process of reassessing the global posture of U.S. military forces.

Question. Mr. Nirenberg, in your view, how critical is a U.S. troop presence to the U.S.-Romanian bilateral relationship especially given the ongoing war in neighboring Ukraine as well as our own strategic interests in Black Sea security?

Answer. As Administration leaders have recently stated, the United States remains committed to Romania—as a trusted NATO Ally, a vital strategic partner, and a driving force for security in Europe. Assistant Secretary for War Zimmerman visited Romania November 18, and the Pentagon released a November 19 statement underscoring that U.S. posture decisions reflect NATO Allies’ tremendous progress in bolstering their own defense and deterrence capabilities. Romania’s success in taking on a greater security burden frees U.S. forces to address other critical needs around the world and demonstrates Romania’s strong contributions to Trump Administration priorities. The U.S. commitment to NATO and Article 5 remains unchanged, and the United States continues to have a strong and flexible presence in Romania, including at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase, the U.S. Navy Aegis Ashore Ballistic Missile Defense System hosted at Deveselu, and the Air Force MQ-9 reapers at Campia Turzii Airbase. I am confident that our strong cultural, economic, and security ties will continue, and look forward to supporting U.S. contributions to Romania’s military modernization and deterrence if confirmed.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DARRYL NIRENBERG BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

The Romanian Parliament is currently considering amendments to its hate speech legislation that would better address antisemitism, in particular aiming to address the glorification of antisemitic Romanian figures from the World War II era.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the government in Bucharest to ensure continued progress in the fight against antisemitism in Romania?

Answer. Combating antisemitism is a top priority for the Trump Administration. As outlined in the U.S.-led Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism—which Romania has endorsed—education, including Holocaust education, is an important part of this effort. If confirmed, I will work to ensure tangible progress on the construction of Romania’s National Holocaust Museum, which is critical to educating the public against antisemitism and preventing Holocaust denial and distortion.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DARRYL NIRENBERG BY SENATOR JACKY ROSEN

Protecting Romanian Democracy from Russian Interference: Romania is a critical NATO ally and EU partner that has faced a sustained campaign of Russian interference—ranging from information operations to direct meddling in its canceled 2024 election, and again in this year’s electoral process.

Question. How would you characterize the nature and scope of Russia’s interference in Romania’s elections and democratic institutions?

Answer. The State Department’s 2024 Human Rights Report notes that the Romanian Constitutional Court’s annulment of the first round of the country’s Presidential election was criticized as political interference in an election and an undue restriction on disfavored political speech of an unprecedented nature and severity.

Romania is a strong NATO Ally and independent sovereign country. If confirmed, I will ensure U.S. advocacy to Romanian authorities, media organizations, and civil society groups encourages their own action and resilience against adversarial propaganda and false information, while allowing full freedom of expression. I expect we will continue to engage within NATO and bilaterally to anticipate and address threats to our democracies, including hybrid threats and enemy propaganda, while ensuring protection of rights of expression.

Question. If confirmed, how would you lead our Embassy to help strengthen Romania’s democratic resilience and defend against continued Russian influence and destabilization efforts?

Answer. As Vice President Vance underscored in his speech at the Munich Security Conference in February, the West should unite around its shared democratic values by facilitating free speech, halting censorship efforts, and ceasing persecution of political opponents.

The Vice President underscored to European leaders, “shutting down elections, or shutting people out of the political process protects nothing. In fact, it is the most surefire way to destroy democracy.” As he stated [d]emocracy rests on the sacred principle that the voice of the people matters.” Healthy democracies should not fear opposing perspectives.

If confirmed, I will work closely to advance our shared bilateral strategic interests—including our growing defense, energy, and commercial partnerships. On Russia, the Administration is focused on bringing an end to the war in Ukraine. Secretary Rubio has said this will require an extensive exchange of serious and realistic ideas, and if confirmed, I would expect to consult with Romania as a close NATO Ally to contribute to this effort.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DR. CHRISTOPHER YEAW BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. In February, New START will expire. If confirmed, you will be the Department’s lead for any future arms control negotiations and planning for what comes after the treaty expires. What do you propose the future of arms control policy with Russia look like, and what should come after New START expires?

Answer. President Trump has spoken repeatedly of addressing the threat nuclear weapons pose to the world. It is important for future arms control arrangements to take into consideration Russia’s non-strategic nuclear weapons and dangerous new kinds of nuclear weapons, as well as China’s rapid and opaque nuclear weapons buildup. Additionally, any follow on arms control agreement should be verifiable and enforceable. The President will decide the path forward on nuclear arms control, and we will work to implement his decision. If confirmed, I look forward to staying in touch as U.S. arms control policy takes shape.

Question. China’s rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal poses serious concerns for our national security interests. As China races to nuclear parity with us, we have no transparency into China’s nuclear programs. However, China has shown little interest in negotiating arms control limits, and even suspended arms control talks last year in protest over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. If confirmed, how do you plan to address Beijing’s continued refusal to come to the table on arms control talks?

Answer. China has an obligation under NPT Article VI to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures related to disarmament. If confirmed, I will work to pursue rigorous compliance with this provision of the NPT. Furthermore, as I testified, it is critical to enhance the U.S. deterrence posture and the military capabilities of U.S. allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.

Question. Will you commit to ensuring that we do not enter any new nuclear treaty that constrains our nuclear arsenal and puts us at a disadvantage to Chinese nuclear forces?

Answer. Given China’s nuclear weapons buildup, any new arms control treaty must take into consideration the new tri-polar nuclear world. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that any future treaty does not erode the U.S. nuclear deterrent. I look forward to staying in touch as U.S. arms control policy takes shape.

Question. Our Indo-Pacific allies depend on the U.S. nuclear umbrella to counter threats from China and North Korea. They are not only concerned by China’s rapid nuclear buildup, but also North Korea’s plan to expand its already diverse nuclear arsenal. How can the U.S. enhance extended deterrence in the Indo-Pacific to reassure our allies in light of Chinese and North Korean aggression? Should the U.S. return nuclear weapons to the Korean Peninsula to address the North Korean threat?

Answer. Pairing diplomatic assurances with a robust, modernized U.S. nuclear force is key to enhancing extended deterrence and addressing threats from North Korea and China. If confirmed, I will work to reassure our allies in the Indo-Pacific that the U.S. commitment to their defense is unwavering. I will consult closely with allies on options to enhance extended deterrence but also encourage them to take on additional responsibilities to deter adversary aggression.

Question. What do you understand ACN’s role to be in negotiations with Tehran to prevent the pursuit or development of a nuclear weapon in Iran?

Answer. President Trump has been clear that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the President’s national security team to ensure that the resources and expertise of the ACN bureau are made

available to support efforts to negotiate a deal that achieves the President's objectives.

Question. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action from the Obama Administration clearly failed to prevent Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon. Fortunately, President Trump's decision to destroy Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025 reflects his leadership and commitment to peace through strength. In your professional opinion, what were the key flaws from the JCPOA?

Answer. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) failed to guarantee the security of the American people, in part because it did not permanently address the threat posed by Iran's nuclear activities. In particular, the deal included sunset provisions on key limits related to Iran's uranium enrichment-related activities. It also failed to address Iran's destabilizing regional conduct, its continued development and proliferation of ballistic missiles, its support for armed militants and proxies, and its treatment of U.S. and foreign dual-national citizens.

Question. What, if anything, can be done differently to make future negotiations successful?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the President's national security team to ensure that the resources and expertise of the ACN bureau are made available to support efforts to negotiate a deal that achieves the President's objective to ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. I will use all counterproliferation and diplomatic tools at my disposal to put pressure on the regime and slow down its sensitive programs.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to provide fulsome and timely responses to congressional inquiries related to Iran nuclear negotiations?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure timely and complete responses to Congress, as appropriate.

Question. What do you understand ACN's role to be in the next steps for civilian nuclear cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

Answer. ACN leads the negotiation and implementation of all 123 agreements on behalf of the Secretary of State. ACN's role for civilian nuclear cooperation with Saudi Arabia should be to take the lead in completing the negotiations and the steps required to sign and bring the agreement into force through coordinating final Presidential review and authorization, as well as the required congressional review process.

Question. How would you respond to concerns about proliferation if Saudi Arabia acquires civilian nuclear technology before normalizing relations with Israel?

Answer. I understand that both the United States and Saudi Arabia are focused on advancing peaceful nuclear cooperation in a manner consistent with our mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, safety, and security, which should be true regardless of the status of efforts to normalize relations with Israel. Saudi Arabia is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and has an IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in force. Saudi Arabia is obligated to never acquire nuclear weapons and to apply IAEA safeguards to all peaceful nuclear activities. If confirmed, I would seek to ensure these obligations are implemented and adhered to.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DR. CHRISTOPHER YEAW BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Nuclear Arms Control

Question. Do you agree that we should continue observing the limits of New START?

Answer. The President will decide the path forward on nuclear arms control, including on New START, which he will clarify on his own timeline. It is important for future arms control arrangements to take into consideration Russia's non-strategic nuclear weapons and dangerous new kinds of nuclear weapons, as well as China's rapid and opaque nuclear weapons buildup.

Question. What leverage can the U.S. pursue related to nuclear arms control efforts with Russia to get meaningful restrictions in place?

Answer. The United States should approach nuclear arms control efforts from a position of strength. That means ensuring a safe, secure, and credible deterrent that can effectively constrain adversarial actions. Pairing verifiable and enforceable arms

control efforts with a modernized, robust nuclear force is essential to making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. Do you commit to work to ensure that this Committee is fully briefed and informed on the new Bureau's functions and plans for arms control?

Answer. If confirmed, yes, with the understanding that any such engagement would be organized with the Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs and conducted in accordance with long-standing Department and executive branch practice.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DR. CHRISTOPHER YEAW BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Question. Is the current U.S. North Korea policy working?

Answer. Yes. The United States is committed to the denuclearization of North Korea.

Question. If not, how should we modify our approach to best protect U.S. national security interests?

Answer. As I said, our policy is working and the United States is committed to the denuclearization of North Korea. It is important to make clear to the DPRK that its escalatory behavior has consequences. The United States will draw on all instruments of national power to deter aggression and to counter provocations and other dangerous and destabilizing actions. The DPRK must also understand that the only viable path forward is through diplomacy.

Question. If confirmed, how would you, including by working with your counterparts at the Department of Defense, help improve U.S. deterrence efforts to maintain Indo-Pacific regional stability?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with my counterparts in the Department of Defense to reassure allies and partners that the United States stands shoulder to shoulder with them. Pairing this diplomatic assurance with a modernized, robust nuclear force is essential to enhancing extended deterrence and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. I will also work with my counterparts to encourage U.S. allies to take on additional responsibilities and share more of the burden in deterring adversary aggression.

Question. What efforts should we pursue with Japan, South Korea, Australia, and others, to support U.S. security goals in the region?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with my counterparts in the Department of Defense to reassure allies and partners that the United States stands shoulder to shoulder with them. Pairing this diplomatic assurance with a modernized, robust nuclear force is essential to enhancing extended deterrence and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. I will also work with my counterparts to encourage U.S. allies to take on additional responsibilities and share more of the burden in deterring adversary aggression.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DR. CHRISTOPHER YEAW BY SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

Question. President Trump recently announced his intention to resume "nuclear" testing, in response to other countries allegedly doing so. Do you understand this to mean nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon delivery systems? If "weapons," please explain the reason for upending decades of restraint between the U.S. and Russia.

Answer. The President said the United States would test nuclear weapons "on an equal basis" with other countries. The United States is not upending restraint by responding equally to what others have already done.

Russia, in particular, has not shown restraint. In June 2019, the Defense Intelligence Agency reported that "Russia has conducted nuclear weapons tests that have created nuclear yield." Annual Department of State arms control compliance reports since 2019 have noted U.S. concerns about both China's and Russia's adherence to their respective nuclear testing moratoria.

Question. President Trump said Russia's proposal to continue adhering to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty's (New START) core tenets sounded like a good idea, but no further action has been taken, nor official response been given. If the

treaty expires in February 2026, the United States would for the first time since 1991 have no mutual restraint with Russia on strategic weapons. What is this administration's posture on New START, and what steps will you take to bring Russia back to the table for an agreement?

Answer. President Trump has spoken repeatedly of addressing the threat nuclear weapons pose to the world. It is important for future arms control arrangements to take into consideration Russia's non-strategic nuclear weapons and dangerous new kinds of nuclear weapons, as well as China's rapid and opaque nuclear weapons buildup. Additionally, any follow on arms control agreement should be verifiable and enforceable. The President will decide the path forward on nuclear arms control, including on New START, which he will clarify on his own timeline. If confirmed, I look forward to staying in touch as U.S. arms control policy takes shape.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO BERNARDO NAVARRO BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. What are your views on the potential for Chinese involvement in Peru's critical infrastructure undermining their ability to make sovereign decisions?

Answer. China increasingly employs economic coercion and political pressure against governments across Latin America and the Caribbean, viewing the region as crucial for access to critical materials, as a market for its exports, and as a back door to the U.S. market. Peru is no exception.

If confirmed, I will advocate for U.S. industry as the best alternative to Chinese coercion. Our companies are the best resourced, utilize the latest technologies, and operate with the highest-quality standards and practices. They are ready to help Peru strengthen its own economy.

Question. Should the U.S. be concerned about Chinese sole-ownership and operation of a deep-water port in Peru, and how can we work with Peru to reduce those concerns?

Answer. China's economic expansion via companies controlled or influenced by the Chinese Communist Party poses risks to U.S. national security and prosperity. The port at Chancay—Peru's only privately owned, public use port—is now a vulnerability for Peru's national security as well. The United States encourages Peru to closely oversee operations at Chancay to preserve its own sovereignty. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Peruvian government to protect U.S. and Peruvian national security. In addition, I will advocate for American companies investing in Peru's ports, such as the Blackrock-backed expansion of Peru's Matarani port.

Question. What measures can Peru take to significantly reduce cocaine production within their territory?

Answer. Peru remains the second largest producer of cocaine in the world, following Colombia. Illicit profits from drug trafficking can corrupt democratic institutions, leading to impunity and injustice. I encourage Peru to take a comprehensive approach to combating narco-trafficking and related crimes. Peru should continue to support efforts to eradicate illicit coca, interdict narcotics, control precursor chemicals, improve criminal investigation, and aggressively prosecute money laundering and financial crimes. The State Department's aviation and other counter-narcotics programs in Peru, provide valuable support in this area.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO BERNARDO NAVARRO BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Question. Do you commit to providing the Committee with updates related to the two cases against your company that are currently on appeal if there is an update or resolution?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Do you commit to prioritizing efforts to support democracy and anti-corruption in Peru, including through U.S. programming and assistance?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Peruvian government, congress, and relevant stakeholders including civil society to support Peru's efforts to uphold the rule of law and address transnational criminal activity. In collaboration with the Peruvian government and using the resources available to me, I will ensure we defend

our shared values, strengthen our bilateral relationship, and support regional stability.

Question. Given that Peru is also a leading exporter of critical minerals, how can we advance cooperation on critical minerals while holding the Peruvian government accountable for corruption?

Answer. As one of the world's most resource-rich nations, Peru's large critical mineral reserves are essential to boosting the United States' dominance in artificial intelligence, cutting-edge defense capabilities, and energy. The United States cannot continue to depend on adversarial nations to source critical minerals. If confirmed, I will support regional efforts to elevate the United States as the global power leading the critical mineral industry, while working with Peru to counter the corrupting and destabilizing influence of dangerous illegal mining groups.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO BERNARDO NAVARRO BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Question. The termination of U.S. Agency for International Development assistance to Peru under the Trump Administration has left severe gaps in longstanding efforts to address governance challenges and regional stability.

If confirmed, what will you prioritize for U.S. foreign policy objectives in Peru?

Answer. As we celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations next year, it's important to look to the future of our relationship and pursue a partnership that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. If confirmed, my top priority will be to advance American interests by furthering our ongoing work to stop illegal immigration, counter Chinese-influence, stem the flow of drugs, combat transnational crime, and support U.S. commercial interests and Americans residing in or visiting Peru.

Submitted by Senator Rick Scott

Introduction of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun

It is my distinct honor to introduce Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, President Trump's nominee to serve as the Special Envoy and Ambassador-at-Large to Combat Global Antisemitism.

Rabbi Kaploun's life and career have been shaped by an unwavering commitment to service, compassion, and justice, as well as his family's deep roots in community, volunteerism, and education. It is clear that he embodies these values instilled in him by both his parents and grandparents, as he has become a source of guidance for community leaders and public officials both in the United States and abroad. His work with his partner, Edward Russo, was recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize nomination, reflecting his innovative spirit and dedication to addressing global challenges.

Rabbi Kaploun is also a successful entrepreneur and community leader. Along with his family, he has established a foundation to support children with unique needs. In every venture, Rabbi Kaploun has a clear ability to bring people together and work with people from all walks of life.

He has cultivated relationships across a broad spectrum of religious communities, including Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders around the world, building bridges across cultural and faith divides.

I am proud to share Rabbi Kaploun's commitment to combating antisemitism. For him, the fight against antisemitism is deeply personal. Having experienced antisemitism firsthand, he devoted his life to confronting hatred and injustice. The tragic murder of a close friend during the Crown Heights riots, his witnessing of the horrors of September 11th, and his observation of the mistreatment of the vulnerable all became defining moments that strengthened his resolve to help build a kinder, more understanding world.

Rabbi Kaploun is an ideal nominee for this role, and I recommend his speedy approval from this committee.

Senator Rick Scott (FL)

Submitted by Senator Rick Scott

Introduction of Bernie Navarro

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee,

It is an honor to sit before you today to introduce my friend and fellow Floridian, Bernie Navarro, to this committee. I'd also like to take a moment to recognize Bernie's wife, Claudia, and his father, Gilberto, who are here supporting him, along with Secretary Rubio's wife, Jeanette Rubio. President Trump made the very wise decision to nominate Mr. Navarro to serve as Ambassador to Peru. Mr. Navarro and I have known each other for a number of years; he has a long history of public service and working to benefit his community in both Florida and Puerto Rico.

He understands the value of hard work, and he is committed to raising up those around him and helping them not just grow, but thrive. He has served in numerous leadership positions, providing mentorship to others as well as supporting established communities and businesses. He has experience working with community members, growing and leading professional associations, and working with the federal government to serve those around him. Bernie has proven to be someone who knows how to get things done. He is an innovative thinker with a long history of supporting and encouraging small businesses and their owners, and creating a flourishing environment for American entrepreneurs

Mr. Navarro is a consensus builder who brings together people from all walks of life and different industries to solve problems. He has led trade missions to South America to drive business and strengthen Miami's economy, and I know he will continue to draw on his impressive experience as he serves and represents President Trump and the United States in this new role. His skills, character, and expertise will make him an effective ambassador to Peru, and I look forward to hearing about his vision for U.S.-Peruvian relations today and how he plans to advance President Trump's agenda. Mr. Navarro, I'm confident that you will make Florida and the United States proud as you work to support President Trump and Secretary Rubio in their pursuit of peace through strength and standing for America's best interests in Central and South America.

You have my support, and I urge my colleagues to vote him quickly out of committee.

Senator Rick Scott (FL)

Submitted by Senator Ted Budd

Senate Foreign Relations Committee – Opening Statement

Nomination of Darryl Nirenberg, U.S. Ambassador to Romania

Good morning, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and the committee. It is an honor to introduce to you my good friend Darryl Nirenberg, President Trump’s nominee to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Romania.

While Darryl may not be a native North Carolinian, his many years of service, leadership, and commitment to the great state of North Carolina—during his tenure as Legislative Director and later Chief of Staff to Republican Senator Jesse Helms—have earned him the distinction of an honorary North Carolinian.

I first met Darryl back in 2017, when I began my career in public service. From that first meeting, it was clear that Darryl embodies the qualities of a respected public servant. His professionalism and integrity have set the standard for those who have had the privilege to work alongside him.

The dedication that has defined Darryl's career was evident early on, when he put himself through college, while his father was ill, working as a waiter and even launching his own business.

Shortly after graduation, Darryl started what would become a fourteen-year career on Capitol Hill. He began his career in the Senate as a Legislative Aide to Republican Senator S.I. Hayakawa of California, before serving as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Agriculture Committee—all the while putting himself through law school at night. He went on to serve as a Professional Staff Member for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and later as Minority Counsel and Minority Deputy Staff Director. His Senate career concluded with his service to North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, working closely with him during his chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Following his tenure in public service, he transitioned into the private sector, where he became a Partner at Patton Boggs and now serves as a Partner at Steptoe.

With more than forty years of experience in foreign policy and international trade law, Darryl understands the dynamic and multifaceted challenges shaping U.S. foreign policy today.

If confirmed, he will assume the ambassadorship at a pivotal time, as Romania remains a key NATO ally to the United States, sharing NATO's longest border with Ukraine and the European Union, and hosting thousands of our troops on the Alliance's eastern flank—including units from Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune in recent years.

President Trump has nominated Darryl to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Romania for his decades of foreign policy experience and the commitment he shares with the President to strengthen America's leadership and promote peace around the world.

I hold no reservations about his depth of knowledge, sound judgment, and steady character to effectively represent the interests of President Trump and the American people if confirmed to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Romania. I urge my colleagues to approve his nomination before the committee.

Submitted by Senator Tim Scott

Thank you, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and members of the Committee.

It is a great honor to introduce my friend, Melissa Argyros, President Trump's nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Through her commitment to enhancing civic education and engagement, Melissa's background reflects and reinforces the same values that have made Latvia one of our most important partners in the Baltic region.

Latvia, like so many of our allies in the region, faces a multitude of threats. Russia's hybrid warfare operations seek to disrupt and influence Latvian society, while its intelligence services continue to target Latvia's critical infrastructure. Despite having a population of just under 2 million, Latvia has played an outsized role in support of Ukraine. It's been a leader in integrating Ukrainian refugees into schools and Latvian society, and it provides support programs to individuals whose education has been disrupted by the invasion.

These efforts resonate with the character of Melissa, whose selfless and determined approach to philanthropy has been proven through years of service at her family's foundation and nonprofits across her home state.

With Russia seeking to reimpose its influence across the continent, the United States cannot afford to back down from its partnerships in Eastern Europe. I have no doubt that Melissa will prove an effective representative of the United States, following President Trump's diplomatic leadership which has delivered success after success across the globe.

I look forward to all Melissa will accomplish for our country as she leads our mission in Latvia.

Submitted by Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2025

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen,

We write to you with deep concern regarding the partisan and controversial nomination of Yehuda Kaploun to serve as the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism (SEAS).

At a time of surging antisemitism both domestically and globally, the Special Envoy position requires a nominee who commands trust and respect, demonstrates sound judgment in confronting antisemitism in all its forms, and possesses the moral authority to credibly represent the United States in this critical mission. Unfortunately, Mr. Kaploun's comments and actions demonstrate a clear unfitness for this post.

In a blatantly offensive and repugnant comment, Mr. Kaploun publicly claimed that after October 7th, "Democrats refuse to even recognize the butchers of women and kidnapers of children as terrorists."¹ This absurd, insulting, and malicious attack alone should be disqualifying. This abhorrent statement maligns every Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—all of whom immediately and forcefully condemned the October 7th terrorist attacks and stood in solidarity with those murdered, injured, and taken hostage, and their families. Such a sweeping, false accusation against those charged with considering his nomination raises serious concerns about Mr. Kaploun's judgment, temperament, and his ability to work effectively across party lines. A vote for Mr. Kaploun would be a vote to affirm his false and insulting narrative—undermining the important work of your Committee to stand in solidarity with all those effected by that horrible day.

Similarly, last year, Mr. Kaploun falsely and insultingly claimed that President Biden, "won't even make a statement about combating anti-Semitism."² Did Mr. Kaploun forget that it was the Biden Administration that developed and released the first-ever whole-of-society U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism? Did Mr. Kaploun forget that President Biden would regularly invoke the antisemitism of the Neo-Nazis in Charlottesville as the very reason he returned to public life to seek higher office? Such a statement raises fundamental questions on Mr. Kaploun's fitness for the post to which he is nominated.

¹ <https://mishpacha.com/playing-the-trump-card/>

² Ibid.

Additionally, Mr. Kaploun has a troubling history in failing to respond to antisemitic rhetoric uttered in his presence. Mr. Kaploun organized the event at which President Trump claimed that if he were to lose the 2024 election, “the Jewish people would have a lot to do with a loss”³—a textbook example of antisemitic scapegoating. Trump later added at the same event that Jews vote for Democrats “only because of the Democrat curse on you,”⁴ which also traffics in antisemitic tropes. As the organizer of the event, Mr. Kaploun had, and still has, ample opportunity to forcefully condemn these antisemitic statements. As of the writing of this letter, Mr. Kaploun has still not condemned this or the hiring of antisemites and Christian Nationalists within the Trump Administration. To represent the United States’ fight against antisemitism, a nominee must be able to—without hesitation—call antisemitism out in all of its forms, no matter how powerful the utterer. We urge you and members of the Committee to address this directly at Mr. Kaploun’s confirmation hearing. Any failure to wholeheartedly condemn such antisemitic motifs must be disqualifying, especially for the United States government’s chief antisemitism official.

Shockingly, in May of this year, reporting by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)⁵ brought to light legal proceedings involving Mr. Kaploun that question his fitness as a representative of the United States. According to court documents from a recently settled lawsuit, a petitioner stated he “fears for his safety and life because Respondent Yehuda Shmaya Kaploun has threatened him in writing and orally, directly and indirectly, through a continued course of conduct that he will have him lose his job, that it will end up in a blood bath, that he will ruin his reputation and career unless Petitioner agrees to keep confidential the extramarital affair involving Petitioner’s wife.”⁶ These proceedings resulted in restraining orders against Mr. Kaploun and his departure from the synagogue where he had been a member for more than 15 years, with the lawsuit settled on April 1, 2025—ten days before this nomination was announced. The JTA further reported that “few among the scores of people touched by the case were willing to speak on record about Kaploun’s nomination as antisemitism envoy,”⁷ with some stating “they were afraid Kaploun would harass them or use his political connections against them.”⁸ Given the Special Envoy position often requires invoking moral authority to compel the world to act to combat antisemitism, your Committee may wish to explore if someone with this kind of character and background would be effective and successful in such a sensitive and critical mission.

Lastly, in written testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on a nomination in 1993, Mr. Kaploun testified that “if honor, oath of office, fidelity to principle, respect for our Constitution, the laws emanating from them, the civil rights of all people, are elements in the measurement of the character of our leaders, it is my opinion that this nominee fails to make the grade.”⁹ By his own standards, Mr. Kaploun fails. His demonization of the very leaders and people who have

³ <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/2024-09-20/ty-article/.premium/trump-israel-needs-me-to-beat-kamala-harris-more-than-anyone-on-earth/00000192-0ca2-d2af-a5be-6cf37fba0000?ts=1757378105423>

⁴ <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/2024-09-20/ty-article/.premium/trump-israel-needs-me-to-beat-kamala-harris-more-than-anyone-on-earth/00000192-0ca2-d2af-a5be-6cf37fba0000?ts=1757378105423>

⁵ <https://www.jta.org/2025/05/15/united-states/the-rise-of-yehuda-kaploun-how-a-hasidic-fixer-became-trumps-nominee-for-antisemitism-czar>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

championed the effort to counter antisemitism in America—many of them members of your Committee—demonstrates his complete lack of “fidelity to principle,” and his total fidelity to the depraved politics of one man—Donald Trump.

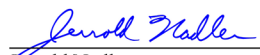
Mr. Kaploun’s past comments and subsequent nomination follow a pattern. It’s the same pattern seen in the Trump Administration’s hiring of known antisemites and in their dealings with students on campus. To the Trump Administration, Jewish safety, like the safety of all minorities in America, does not hold inherent value. Rather, it is a tool to be deployed in the service of their larger partisan political agenda.

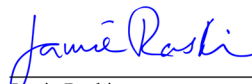
Ultimately, Mr. Kaploun, when confronted by antisemitic rhetoric, did not speak out against it and himself engaged in speech that was deeply damaging to the Jewish community at a time of peak antisemitism. As nominee to the United States government’s single post strictly devoted to combating antisemitism, we must demand better. Each member of your Committee must ask themselves whether Mr. Kaploun is the kind of person we want to entrust with this critical responsibility, and if Mr. Kaploun’s past is what we want to elevate as an example of a qualified nominee to fight antisemitism globally on behalf of the United States.

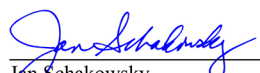
In reflecting on Mr. Kaploun’s nomination, we are left echoing the very words he once wrote. “This great country is surely not so limited in its resources that no other competent individual can be found. Can this Senate afford to send a message to the American public that the morality of the leaders it confirms is not relevant?”¹⁰

We urge you and the rest of the members of the Committee to vote against Mr. Kaploun’s nomination.

Sincerely,


 Jerrold Nadler
 Member of Congress

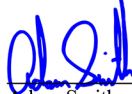

 Jamie Raskin
 Member of Congress


 Jan Schakowsky
 Member of Congress


 Becca Balint
 Member of Congress

⁹https://www.google.com/books/edition/Nomination_of_Lee_Patrick_Brown/EE7hm2y0IFkC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22yehuda+kaploun%22&pg=PA49&printsec=frontcover

¹⁰ Ibid.



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



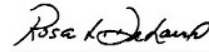
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



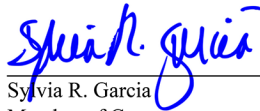
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



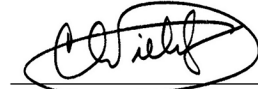
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress




Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



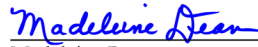
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



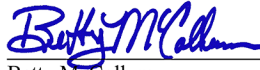
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

← **Post**

 **Ted Deutch, CEO of American Jewish Committee**  
@AJCCEO  ...

Glad to see that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held its hearing on President Trump's pick to be the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism (@StateSEAS), Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun.

We urge the swift confirmation of Rabbi Kaploun to help the United States continue to lead the fight against antisemitism across the globe.

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 Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart's
post

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart 
Apr 10 · 

Congratulations to Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun!

Rabbi Kaploun's legacy of leadership and service has uplifted countless individuals in the Jewish community. His wise counsel is frequently sought out by prominent business and political leaders across both the United States and Israel, including President Trump.

At a time when rising antisemitism and attempts to malign and delegitimize Israel are spreading across our country – from college campuses and businesses and even here within the House – such leadership is more essential than ever.

Rabbi Kaploun will be a steadfast voice in defending the Jewish community, confronting antisemitism head-on, and holding accountable those who spread hatred and bigotry. It is a true honor and privilege to be his friend.


Donald J. Trump 

@realDonaldTrump



Press Release

Position created by law Smith authored in 2020

Smith Welcomes Appointment of Rabbi Kaploun as U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

Washington, Apr 14, 2025 | Jeff Sagnip

Rep. Chris Smith today welcomed the nomination of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun to serve as U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism – a position created by legislative provisions Smith authored in 2004 (P.L. 108-332) and then elevated to ambassadorial-level position by the law Smith authored in 2020 (P.L. 116-326).

"Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun sees the threat of antisemitism for what it is – a mortal threat to Jews in the United States, Israel, and throughout the world, particularly in its manifestation of Middle-Eastern terrorism and its connections to terrorist sympathizers in the United States, including on many U.S. campuses. With his close and respected relationship with the President, I believe Rabbi Kaploun will be an extraordinarily effective leader in the fight against this ancient and deadly form of hatred."

Smith (R-NJ) serves as co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism, and has written many laws and resolutions that combat antisemitism, and has led the same fight within interparliamentary organizations of legislators, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The legislative provisions that Smith authored in 2004 established not only the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, but also established the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism within the State Department. Smith's 2020 law (P.L. 116-326) built on the experience of the previous 16 years to enhance and strengthen the Office which his 2004 provisions established.

Rabbi Kaploun is a Florida businessman active in Jewish community life and charity work, who became involved in public life in recent years, including President Trump's campaign, in response to the growing threats of antisemitism. In a 2024 interview with Mishpacha magazine he said: "Our situation is similar to that of Jews in 1930s Germany, on the eve of Kristallnacht. They, too, lived in peace and quiet until the ground shook under their feet. And in the United States, the ground is already shaking." On naming Kaploun as U.S. Special Envoy, President Trump stated: "With antisemitism dangerously on the rise, Yehuda will be the strongest representative for Americans and Jews across the globe and promote peace."

Smith said, "I wish Rabbi Kaploun every success in the all-important work of countering a global increase of threats and acts of violence against Jews, and I look forward to working with him."

###



Ted Deutch
Chief Executive Officer
Edward and Sandra Meyer
Office of the CEO

Jacob Blaustein Building
165 East 56 Street
New York, NY 10022
T 212.751.4000
F 212.891.1450
AJC.org

November 19th, 2025

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen,

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) does not regularly take positions on nominees requiring Senate confirmation. However, the role of U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism at the U.S. Department of State is one of the utmost importance, especially at this critical moment. Further, through numerous conversations with Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, we can confidently speak to his passion and commitment towards safeguarding the security and wellbeing of the Jewish people.

The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, created by Congress in 2004, has kept the United States at the forefront of international efforts to raise awareness of the rising scourge of antisemitism and press governments and multilateral institutions to act to safeguard Jewish communities. AJC has long advocated for this office to be fully funded, resourced, and staffed.

AJC supported the *Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act*, which elevated this critical role to the rank of ambassador and gave the incumbent a direct line to the Secretary of State. At a time when antisemitism shows no sign of abating, this confirmation is urgent. Following the remarkable tenure of Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Rabbi Kaploun must be given an equal level of prominence at the Department of State. This position sends a powerful signal to world leaders and to Jewish communities around the world of America's commitment to confronting this pernicious hatred.

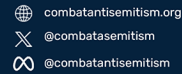
Rabbi Kaploun's commitment to combating antisemitism across the political spectrum in a bipartisan manner should be both reassuring and deeply resonant at this time when anti-Jewish hate continues to emerge from the far right and the far left in troubling ways across the globe.

AJC urges support for Rabbi Kaploun's confirmation and urges Congress to continue to prioritize the funding and staffing of the vital Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism.

Respectfully,

Congressman Ted Deutch
AJC Chief Executive Officer
Edward and Sandra Meyer Office of the CEO
Member of Congress (2010-22)





November 19, 2025

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen,

The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) commends Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun for his thoughtful and personal testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today. At a moment when antisemitism is rising across the United States and around the world, it is essential that our nation have an empowered Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Rabbi Kaploun's testimony emphasized the urgency of this moment and the need for strong, consistent, and bipartisan leadership to confront Jew-hatred in all its forms and educate the world to respect one another.

Rabbi Kaploun has demonstrated a clear commitment to working across political, civic, and faith communities to advance practical solutions and to ensure that this critical role continues to unite Americans around shared values of safety, dignity, and equal rights for Jewish communities. His explicit support for the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the internationally recognized, consensus framework endorsed by the U.S. government and hundreds of institutions worldwide, further reflects his readiness to address contemporary antisemitism comprehensively and with moral clarity.

We reaffirm our letter dated August 26, 2025, to U.S. Senate leadership, wherein, together with more than a dozen other national Jewish organizations, CAM expressed the "high priority" in which we place confirming a nominee to the SEAS position.

We go further today in CAM expressing our unqualified support for Rabbi Kaploun to serve in the SEAS role.

Sincerely,

Alyza Lewin
President of U.S. Affairs
Combat Antisemitism Movement

National Officers
Ben Chouake, President
Stanley Stern, President - NY
Tudy Stern, President - NY
Alan Friedman, President - NJ
David Schussel, President - NJ

Rabbi M. Genack,
Founding Chairman



November 20, 2025

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

To the Honorable Senator Risch and Senator Shaheen:

We write to commend Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, the President's nominee for U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, for his clear and measured testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At a time when antisemitism is escalating across the United States and internationally, it is important that the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism role be filled and fully supported. Rabbi Kaploun's remarks underscored the seriousness of the current environment and the need for steady, bipartisan attention to addressing antisemitism in all its forms.

Rabbi Kaploun has shown a consistent commitment to working with political, civic, and faith partners to advance practical approaches to countering antisemitism and supporting the security and dignity of Jewish communities. He has demonstrated his readiness to engage with the challenges facing Jewish communities today in a direct and responsible manner.

NORPAC encourages support for Rabbi Kaploun's swift confirmation, so that he can begin this essential work.

Thank you,

Ben Chouake, MD (Dr. Ben)
NORPAC National President

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA



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RABBI MOSHE HAUER, OB"Y
Executive Vice President

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& Chief Operating Officer

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Executive Director

ISAAC PRETTER
Chairman, Advocacy

YEHUDA NEUBERGER
Chairman, Board of Directors

November 19, 2025

Senator James Risch, Chairman
Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Mem.
Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator,

We write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America ("Orthodox Union") regarding the Committee's consideration of Yehuda Kaploun to be the Special Envoy for Combatting Antisemitism.

The Orthodox Union is the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization serving thousands of congregations nationwide. As a nonpartisan religious organization, it is our practice not to endorse or oppose a president's nominees before the Senate for confirmation. However, we wish to express our view regarding the importance of this position and Rabbi Kaploun's understanding of the issues facing our community.

Since the attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitism, already on the rise, has seen a dramatic spike across the globe. Both domestically and abroad, the Jewish community is facing increasing instances of assault and harassment, at schools, shuls and community centers.

In this environment of rapidly increasing hate against our community, it is critical that the role of Special Envoy be filled as quickly as possible to continue coordinating US led global efforts to combat such hatred. As an easily identifiable member of the Jewish community, and longtime activist, Rabbi Kaploun is familiar with the issues facing Jews around the world. As a member of the Orthodox community, we are familiar with Rabbi Kaploun and his commitment to combatting antisemitism.

Additionally, Rabbi Kaploun has shown a willingness to cross the partisan divide. He worked with two of his predecessors, Deborah Lipstadt and Elan Carr, to issue a joint response to a horrible antisemitic attack and issue a bipartisan call for an international and domestic response that goes beyond politics.¹ This too is crucial in the fight against antisemitism

¹ [Take it from us, antisemitism envoys for Trump and Biden: The fight against Jew-hatred must not be politicized - Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#)

In short, Rabbi Kaploun has proven an eager and capable ally in the fight against antisemitism.

We appreciate this Committee's serious consideration of these issues. We thank you for taking our perspective into account as you consider Rabbi Kaploun's nomination.

Sincerely,

Nathan Diament

Nathan J. Diament
Executive Director

Isaac Pretter

Isaac Pretter
Chairman, Advocacy



Republican Jewish Coalition

50 F Street N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001
 (202) 638-6688 • Mail@RJCHQ.org • www.RJCHQ.org

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Hon. James Risch
 Chairman, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Risch:

We write on behalf of the Republican Jewish Coalition in unequivocal support of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

Our nation, and the entire world, face a crisis of sharply rising antisemitism. Instances of violence against Jews are now commonplace on the streets of the world's greatest cities. Jewish children are targeted for hate and harassment at their schools, and synagogues and community centers are targets for vicious mobs.

It is imperative that the role of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism be filled as quickly as possible. At a time when many Jews think twice about walking outside of their homes wearing a yarmulke, or Star of David, Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun is a proud American Jew who, in this important role, will make a clear statement that the United States will not compromise with antisemitism.

Rabbi Kaploun, as expressed in his testimony before the Committee, is deeply and personally familiar with the concerns of Jewish communities around the world. As he said, "Antisemitism is anti-American. Those who chant 'Death to the Jews', too often chant 'Death to America'."

We are grateful to President Trump, the staunchest friend the Jewish community has ever had in the White House, for nominating Rabbi Kaploun, and are confident that he will unflinchingly confront antisemitism wherever it appears.

Sincerely,

Norm Coleman
 National Chairman

Matthew Brooks
 Chief Executive Officer



August 26, 2025

Hon. John Thune, Majority Leader
Hon. Chuck Schumer, Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Senator Schumer:

We the undersigned major national Jewish organizations urge you to swiftly fill the positions of U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS) and U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom (IRF) by expediting consideration of the current nominees. Filling these positions is a high priority for our organizations and of utmost importance in fighting growing antisemitism and ensuring freedom of religion or belief worldwide.

We believe that these ambassador-at-large positions are crucial to protecting vital human rights, promoting religious freedom, and vigorously confronting the global surge in antisemitism.

Since the Hamas terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023, antisemitism has escalated at an alarming rate. A report by the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel called 2024 a “peak year” for antisemitism, with antisemitic incidents nearly doubling year over year and increasing by 340 percent worldwide compared to 2022.

We dare not delay in filling these critical positions that protect human rights around the world. To that end we strongly urge you to prioritize filling these positions, sending a powerful signal to governments around the world that the United States upholds our constitutionally guaranteed rights to life and liberty, to freedom of religion and belief, and calls on them to do the same.

Very respectfully yours,

Jewish Federations of North America

Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations
(Continued)

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ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
Agudath Israel of America
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
American Jewish Committee
B'nai B'rith International
Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
Israeli American Council (IAC)
Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
NORPAC
Religious Zionists of America – Mizrahi
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations





November 20, 2025

Dear Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,

On behalf of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (LDB), we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun to serve as the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Ambassador-at-Large.

In our discussions with Rabbi Kaploun, we have been encouraged by his clear understanding of the global and domestic challenges facing Jewish communities and by his pragmatic, education-focused approach to combating anti-Semitism.

The Brandeis Center combats anti-Semitism through legal advocacy, policy engagement, and educational initiatives. Rabbi Kaploun's background in both public service and the private sector would bring steady, thoughtful leadership to the Office of the Special Envoy at a time when anti-Semitism is rising in the United States and abroad.

We respectfully urge the Committee to advance his nomination. His confirmation would reaffirm the United States' commitment to addressing anti-Semitism with seriousness and resolve.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Committee and, if confirmed, with Rabbi Kaploun, in working toward our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Marcus
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 501
Washington, DC 20006

Karen Paikin Barall
Chief Policy Officer
The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Law
Washington, DC 20006



CONGRESS OF
BUKHARIAN JEWS
OF THE USA & CANADA

November 20th, 2025

To:

Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

**Re: Endorsement of Rabbi Yehuda Kaploon for Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism /
Ambassador-at-Large**

Dear Chairman, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **Bukharian Jewish Congress of the USA & Canada**, I am honored to submit this formal letter of endorsement for **Rabbi Yehuda Kaploon** as **Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism / Ambassador-at-Large**.

Representing one of the fastest-growing Jewish communities in the United States, comprised of over one hundred thousand of Bukharian Jews who fled oppression and discrimination in Central Asia, the Bukharian Jewish Congress is deeply committed to safeguarding Jewish life, strengthening communal resilience, and advocating for the security and dignity of Jews across the country and around the world.

At a time when antisemitism has surged to unprecedented levels on campuses, online, and in public spaces, the need for a strong, capable, and principled leader to combat this hatred has never been greater.

Rabbi Kaploon is precisely such a leader.

Yehuda Kaploon has demonstrated:

- **A lifelong dedication to Jewish communal security and advocacy**
- **Strong diplomatic instincts and the ability to build trust across diverse communities**
- **A deep understanding of global antisemitism and its modern manifestations**
- **The professionalism, integrity, and strategic vision required for high-level government service**



CONGRESS OF
BUKHARIAN JEWS
OF THE USA & CANADA

His record of service has earned him the respect of Jewish communities nationwide, including our own. We are confident that Rabbi Kaploon will bring clarity, moral courage, and effective action to this critically important position.

The Bukharian Jewish Congress of the USA & Canada wholeheartedly supports this nomination and respectfully urges the Committee's favorable consideration.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to combatting antisemitism in all its forms.

Sincerely,

Chagit Sofiev-Leviev
President
Bukharian Jewish Congress Of The USA & Canada
On behalf of the Board of Directors and Community Leadership



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Thursday, November 20, 2025

The Honorable Members of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Re: Support for Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun for Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and
Combat Antisemitism

Dear Members of the United States Senate,

I am writing to share my sincere support for Rabbi Yehuda ("Yudah") Kaploun as a candidate for the position of Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. In a time when many communities are feeling increasingly vulnerable, this position requires someone who approaches the responsibility with sensitivity, balance, and a genuine desire to bring people together. I believe Rabbi Kaploun is well-suited for this role.

Yehuda cares deeply about the safety and well-being of the Jewish community and about strengthening understanding between communities across the country. He is thoughtful, measured, and respectful in his interactions with others—qualities essential to a position focused on combating hatred and building trust.

In my experiences with him, I have consistently seen the following qualities:

A calm and reasoned approach to challenging issues
A respectful manner that allows him to work with a wide range of people
A genuine concern for the welfare of others
A clear commitment to the values of tolerance and mutual respect

The Ambassador-at-Large for Combating Antisemitism must not only speak out against hate but also help create pathways for dialogue and cooperation. Rabbi Kaploun has shown that he brings empathy, thoughtfulness, and a steady hand to such work.

For these reasons, I am pleased to offer my support for Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun and respectfully encourage his confirmation. I believe he will serve with dignity and a sincere dedication to promoting understanding and combating antisemitism wherever it arises.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Yakov Fellig



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

August 27, 2025

Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun

By Email

Re: Congratulations and G-d Speed

Dear Rabbi Kaploun.

On behalf of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (“AAJLJ”), we extend our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the position of United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism.

This hearing comes at a moment of historic urgency. Antisemitism has surged to levels unseen in generations, across campuses, in the streets, and within global institutions. The Jewish community is in need of warriors who stand firm, who speak plainly, and who refuse to equivocate in the face of hatred. Your nomination recognizes precisely that strength.

You have long been a steadfast advocate for the Jewish people, unafraid to confront antisemitism, unafraid to defend Jewish dignity, and unafraid to stand publicly with our community at a time when many shrink back. I have been privileged to witness you at work and your leadership across communal institutions, your activism, your presence at every major antisemitism forum in Washington since your nomination, and your commitment to building alliances with government officials and faith partners. These are not the actions of someone seeking a title, they are the actions of a man already doing the work.

We cannot ignore that, on the eve of your hearing, a letter was circulated in Congress attacking your character and attempting to discredit your service to the Jewish community.

The AAJLJ categorically rejects the premise that vigorous advocacy for the Jewish people, forthright criticism of public officials, or refusal to sanitize the realities of rising antisemitism constitutes “disqualification.” At this fraught moment, strength is not a liability, it is a necessity.

To suggest that the Special Envoy must be someone who offends no one, who avoids passion, or who refuses to speak hard truths is to fundamentally misunderstand the role. The Jewish people do not need a ceremonial figurehead. We need someone prepared to confront antisemitism wherever it manifests from the far right, the far left, extremist movements, global institutions, and even in the halls of political power.

Your record shows precisely that resolve. You have met tirelessly with policymakers, community leaders, and interfaith partners. You have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with vulnerable Jewish communities. You have been present, physically and morally at a time when Jewish Americans feel increasingly abandoned.



Your experience as a rabbi, a businessman, a communal leader, and as someone who lives and breathes the daily realities of the Jewish community, has equipped you with a moral clarity that is indispensable.

This role demands urgency and courage, not timidity. It demands someone who understands that antisemitism is not theoretical, but lethal. It demands someone who will speak unmistakably, even when others prefer euphemisms. You have already demonstrated that you will not retreat from that responsibility.

As the nation's principal organization of Jewish attorneys dedicated to defending human rights, combating antisemitism, and upholding the rule of law, the AAJL recognizes that the office you seek is not merely diplomatic. It is moral.

We believe you possess the passion, insight, and strength of character required for this moment and we are confident that your leadership will elevate the office of Special Envoy, strengthen U.S. engagement in combating global antisemitism, and bring long-overdue urgency to the challenges before us.

Simply put, Rabbi Kaploun, the Jewish community needs warriors right now and you have shown yourself to be one.

We congratulate you on reaching this important milestone and I look forward to working with you, when you are confirmed, as we continue fighting for the safety and dignity of Jewish communities worldwide.

With respect and the warmest of regards,

Robert Garson

President

