

NOMINATIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:42 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch presiding.

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

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

Senator RISCH. The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate will come to order.

We have a hearing this morning on four of the President's nominees. We welcome you. We welcome your families. Welcome everyone who has come to listen.

We are glad to have you here, and the way this will work is I am going to make an opening statement. I will then yield to the distinguished Ranking Member to do likewise, and after that we will hear from each of the nominees, and we would request you keep your marks to about 5 minutes.

If you have more than that, we are more than happy to include those in the record. Then we will open it up to a round of questions.

So with that, thank you to all of you and your families. The families who play an important role here. We all know that and their support is, obviously, important to everyone. So let us start.

Mr. Weiland, your job is an important job. The trans-criminal organizations and their money laundering and the trafficking they commit pose direct threats to our communities and undermine international stability.

As Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, you have a real opportunity to help our foreign partners dismantle these groups. I am grateful that President Trump is redoubling efforts against TCOs including his recent actions in the Caribbean and international cooperation, which will significantly improve the success of these and other measures.

I hope to hear how you will ensure your bureau plays an active role in strengthening cooperation with our allies in the Western Hemisphere.

Ms. Wicks, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Vietnam, and our economic and diplomatic relations only continue to grow, most notably with President Trump's recent trade agreement.

However, even as the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship grows, Vietnam has continued to strengthen its relationship with China and Russia. Vietnam's defense and energy cooperation with Russia is particularly troubling as it contributes to funding Putin's war machine in Ukraine.

I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue as well as your plans to boost U.S. commercial diplomacy in Vietnam in the energy sector.

Additionally, as you know, this committee has passed a large number of nominees this year, and I want to thank you for your work to make that possible.

Mr. LoGerfo, as ambassador at large for counterterrorism you will be charged with helping protect Americans from terror groups that look to harm us and other innocent communities around the world.

Sadly, the previous Administration's failed Afghanistan withdrawal and open borders have put Americans at risk. The tragic November attack here in DC was a reminder that Afghanistan continues to serve as a terror haven to groups and inspiration to individuals who wish to harm Americans.

We must do everything we can to prevent future violence. At a minimum, we should ensure terrorists do not get hold of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund their terrorism. This is why my colleagues and I have tried to pass the No Tax Dollars for Terrorists Act.

You have been nominated for a very difficult but important job. Afghanistan is not the only source of radical Islamic terrorism.

Al-Qaeda and ISIS run rampant in the Sahel, al-Shabaab and Houthis cooperate around the Red Sea, and Syria and Iraq remain difficult on this front.

I look forward to hearing your plans for bolstering America's counterterrorism capabilities.

Mr. Meyer, since Sri Lanka's economic and political crisis in 2022 the government has made substantial progress on reforms. If Sri Lanka continues down this path, the country will be well positioned for U.S. private sector investment and enhanced diplomatic relations.

Yet like Vietnam, Sri Lanka has pursued closer ties with China as it seeks to draw foreign investment, and China's influence over Sri Lanka's critical infrastructure, military, and energy sectors is concerning.

I understand Sri Lanka is learning their lesson. I hear that they are interested in finally breaking free of China. I look forward to hearing your goals for this role, if confirmed, as well as where you plan to push back against China's influence in sectors that could undermine a free and open Indo-Pacific.

With that, again, thank you to each of the nominees. Thank you to your families, and I am now going to turn it over to the distinguished Ranking Member who does better than I did, hopefully.

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

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, my voice may be a little better this morning.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Senator SHAHEEN. But thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning to our nominees. Thank you all for your willingness to serve, and welcome to your families and supporters who are here.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin, though, while we have members of the committee here by expressing my concerns about those on social media who are targeting staffers of this committee for work in ways that are not even accurate.

I hope that we will all push back against efforts to target anybody who is working for this committee. It is one thing to target us; we are public figures.

But to target staffers in ways that are detrimental I think hurts the committee, hurts our operations, and is not acceptable. And given the environment of political violence that we are in, I think it is particularly troubling. So I hope that everyone will push back against those kinds of remarks on social media.

Senator RISCH. I agree with that. We are certainly legitimate targets—bigger targets—and you would think they would want to go there, and we can take it.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Well, I am particularly pleased that we have three career diplomats before us today. However, of the 91 nominees that we have processed this year only 10 have been career nominees, and yet we have 85 posts without Senate confirmed ambassadors.

And we are seeing natural disasters, terrorist attacks, political instability grow around the world, and it is not in any American's interest to leave our embassies overseas without the appropriate leadership. So we need to do better.

One of those vital posts is the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. INL works to help foreign police dismantle fentanyl labs, strengthen foreign courts to keep violent criminals from fleeing to the United States, and disrupt money laundering pipelines that fund gangs that threaten American neighborhoods.

Mr. Weiland, I imagine that you would agree that these efforts are all in our national interest, and yet the Administration has fired 40 employees at the bureau, cut more than 200 programs, and wants to slash the bureau's budget by 83 percent.

So, Mr. Weiland, if confirmed, how would you continue to protect Americans with such drastic cuts to the department?

And is it Mr. LoGerfo?

Mr. LOGERFO. LoGerfo.

Senator SHAHEEN. LoGerfo. I have the same concerns about the efforts that fall under the post that you are nominated for, the counterterrorism coordinator.

I am pleased we are considering a career public servant with a long track record for this critical post.

Among other responsibilities, the counterterrorism coordinator's work includes training foreign partners to stop ISIS and al-Qaeda recruiting networks, cutting terror financing pipelines that try to

enter U.S. financial systems, and tracking terrorist plots overseas before they target Americans at home.

Given that the Administration cut the bureau by more than half in its reorganization over the summer, if confirmed, I want to hear how you will make up for those cuts.

Ms. Wicks, China's influence is a major challenge at our mission in Vietnam, as you know, the post you have been nominated for.

I hope you will speak about how, if confirmed, you would work to expand semiconductor supply chains to reduce American dependence on China and how you would counter Beijing's maritime coercion that threatens global shipping.

Finally, Mr. Meyer, if confirmed as Ambassador to Sri Lanka, how will you support disaster relief efforts in the wake of the recent cyclone, given the dismantling of USAID?

The United States' retreat from humanitarian and basic relief efforts not only leads to serious human consequences around the world, it creates a vacuum that China and others are not only eager to fill but they have already begun to fill.

On a related note, Mr. Chairman, as you know I am very concerned about the inability to deliver timely food and nutrition assistance globally. Congress has set expectations in the Food for Peace Act and in annual appropriations bills that sustain life saving food assistance.

But 14 of the 16 programs have been cut, and this gap has real strategic and political consequences not just around the world but for our farmers here at home, because food insecurity drives migration and conflict.

These are serious challenges. I hope we can address them together on a bipartisan basis, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today.

Thank you, all.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much, Senator Shaheen.

Let us hear from our witnesses now. Again, if you would keep it to about 5 minutes, and we will be happy to include anything you would like in the record beyond that.

So, Mr. Weiland, let us start with you. Senator Cornyn wanted to introduce you. When he gets here we will let him introduce you. I am sure he has nice things to say.

But in the meantime, why do you not take it?

STATEMENT OF FRANK WEILAND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. WEILAND. Good morning.

I would like to thank Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen for holding this hearing. Since you have already heard from so many nominees this year, I will stick to one idea that Republicans and Democrats agree on and that is brevity.

I would also like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for entrusting me with this nomination. It is a great honor to serve a country that I love.

I would not be here without those mentors and role models who instilled in me from an early age a strong sense of civic obligation.

Those are people, first and foremost, like my parents—my mom seated behind me, and my dad watching from home.

But the mentors also include people like Senators John Cornyn and Lamar Alexander, Judge E. Grady Jolly, Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon, and the monks and lay faculty at Cistercian Prep School in Irving, Texas.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Carol, my aunt Anne Weiland, and Uncle Stu Seides, and my young children Jay and Bridget, who are in the audience.

My kids actually are a good segue because when I think about the job I have been nominated for I try to keep young people in mind. Inside the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, my colleagues at the State Department see two parallel troubling patterns.

First, adolescents abroad, some as young as 12, 13 years old, recruited by criminal gangs, often online. They soon become adept at using weapons like machetes and M-16s. They help sell and move illicit drugs.

Second, Americans in the same age bracket, teenagers in places like DC and Dallas and Detroit, they ingest substances that were smuggled across the southern border inside tires or toys.

The pills or powders depress their respiratory systems and slow down their heart rates until, tragically, they take their last breath.

INL's job is to disrupt criminal enterprises driving both trends. The bureau assists police forces, border guards, coast guards, and national guards in foreign countries. So you could say that INL is in the business of guarding, and the most important thing it guards is U.S. national security.

If confirmed, my mission would be to execute the President and Secretary Rubio's vision of ensuring the safety, security, and prosperity of Americans. That means degrading the capabilities and dismantling the structures of narco terrorist groups pushing poison into the United States.

It also means stemming the flow of fentanyl and the myriad of other deadly substances our fellow citizens are dying from, and it means maintaining America's strategic advantage in the law enforcement space so that our adversaries and strategic competitors do not make inroads in places that are pivotal to our future.

This is personal to me. After college I moved to Mexico where I saw firsthand what the absence of a durable rule of law looks like.

The country is in many ways a paradise—its natural beauty, its culture, the warmth of its people. But when a friend of mine bribed a police officer after a routine traffic stop in Mexico City, the United States and its criminal justice system, for all its challenges, suddenly seemed very far away.

Meanwhile, back in Texas people were dying. Two guys I played high school football with, gone, their lives vanquished by drugs they may not have even known they were taking.

I started to see that not only as a tragedy but also an injustice, the fact that the cartels often pay no price, that they profit off American customers' weakness, confusion, ignorance, and desperation; that they collude with Chinese chemical brokers whose government feigns blamelessness; that drug traffickers launch their products and thus illegally cross the border into a country that is

not their own for the explicit purpose of hooking and harming our fellow American citizens.

That righteous indignation, that sense that enough is enough, is what motivates me. It is encouraging to say that in certain respects the good guys are winning. Overdose deaths in the U.S. have fallen of late, which is a credit not only to the U.S. Congress but also the executive branch officials, State and local authorities, and our overseas partners.

But we still have a long way to go before the scourge of synthetic drugs and the narco terrorist networks that profit from them are permanently kept at bay. That is the effort to which I hope to be able to contribute.

Thank you for considering me for this position. 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: Frank Wieland

Date: December 11, 2025

[The prepared statement of Mr. Weiland follows:]

Prepared Statement of Frank Weiland

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I wouldn't be here without those mentors and role models who instilled in me, from an early age, a strong sense of civic obligation. These are people, first and foremost, like my parents, watching from home.

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- First, adolescents abroad, some as young as 12, 13 years old, recruited by criminal gangs, often online, soon become adept at using weapons like machetes and M-16s. They help sell and move illicit drugs.
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This is personal to me. After college, I moved to Mexico, where I saw firsthand what the absence of a durable rule of law looks like. The country is in some ways a paradise—its natural beauty, its culture, the warmth of its people. But when a friend of mine bribed a police officer after a routine traffic stop in Mexico City, the United States and its criminal justice system, for all its challenges, suddenly seemed very far away.

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Thank you for considering me for this position; I look forward to your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Weiland.
 Senator Cornyn, would you care to say a few words about Mr. Weiland?

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN CORNYN,
 U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS**

Senator CORNYN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is a little unorthodox to introduce someone after he has already spoken to the——

Senator RISCH. Yes, we are already kind of familiar with him, but go ahead.

Senator CORNYN. But I guess we are used to the unorthodox here these days. But thank you. I was tied up in the Judiciary Committee so I appreciate your patience.

This is not the first time I have had the pleasure of introducing one of my staff alumni before this committee, and I am happy to do so again today. It is always a joy for me to see the development and sing the praises of my former staff, and it is impressive to see where they have ended up.

Today, I have the pleasure of introducing a fellow Texan, Cart Weiland, President Trump's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

As a Texan and as he just stated, Cart has seen firsthand the devastation of the drug crisis here in the United States, and paired with his background and experience I have no doubt that he is the person for this difficult but rewarding job.

Cart served as my chief speechwriter from 2017 to 2018, and heaven knows I needed a lot of help, but that is just the tip of the iceberg of his broad portfolio of impressive accomplishments.

He earned a JD from Harvard, and he served as a law clerk in the office of Texas Solicitor General Jonathan Mitchell and the Office of Budget Policy and Planning for then Governor Rick Perry, among other roles within our State that we both call home.

After working for me in the Senate, Cart went on to serve in multiple capacities in the State Department, including the Office of Policy Planning and the U.S. Commission on Unalienable Rights, before he went to work for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs under then Chairman Michael McCaul.

But there is more to Cart than simply his professional achievements. He has a beautiful family and his wife Carol, may not only be his better half but ties for the brains in the family as she is also an accomplished graduate of Harvard Law School.

Cart is dad to two young children, Jay and Bridget, who are with us today, I think, over there. A proud Texan and a devout Catholic, Cart credits his education from——

Mr. WEILAND. Cistercian.

Senator CORNYN. Thank you. Cistercian Prep in Dallas for forming him to be the person he is today. Cart goes out of his way to mentor fellow graduates from his alma mater and other young Texans in exile who happen to be working here in what I call the forward operating base in hostile territory known as Washington, DC, and he has a particular knack for finding Dallasites around town and bringing them together.

Having seen Cart's character and commitment to serving his country I am sure he will do great things at the State Department, and I want to congratulate you, Cart, on your nomination and I look forward to supporting your confirmation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Cornyn. Well done.

Ms. Wicks, let us hear from you next.

**STATEMENT OF JENNIFER WICKS MCNAMARA, OF VIRGINIA,
TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENI-
POTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Ms. WICKS MCNAMARA. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of this committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the trust they have placed in me.

I am joined by my husband George and a few close friends. My parents, Gary and Elizabeth Wicks, and my daughter Kim are here in spirit. They are watching from Minnesota and Scotland, respectively, as well as other relatives and friends. I am grateful to all for their ongoing support.

I am also deeply appreciative of my White House and State Department colleagues for everything they have done to support my nomination. I am a Midwest girl at heart, growing up in Minnesota with public school teacher parents who instilled in me the values of hard work and public service.

My government career began more than 31 years ago with the U.S. Army at the Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Korea, and took me to Hawaii and Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 2003 I joined the State Department, serving in several offices before becoming the director of the Office of Presidential Appointments in 2012.

There, I have guided and advanced about a thousand candidates for State Department leadership positions requiring the advice and consent of the Senate and presidential appointment. It is a true privilege to be on the other side before you now.

The President and the Secretary are clear about Indo-Pacific's geopolitical and strategic importance with Vietnam being one of our most important partners in the region.

A strong, independent, and resilient Vietnam is in the United States' best interests. Just 30 years ago, our two countries established diplomatic relations, and in 2023 we elevated bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

If confirmed, I will advocate foremost for U.S. interests in this vibrant bilateral relationship, focusing on defense and security cooperation, trade and investment, and people to people ties.

The strength of our military cooperation builds on extensive efforts to address the legacies of the Vietnam war. With congressional support the United States has partnered with Vietnam to remove 700,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance, provide assistance to one million persons with disabilities, and address dioxin contamination in Da Nang and Binh Hoa Air Base.

For decades, Vietnam provided critical assistance to enable the repatriation of more than a thousand American soldiers' remains, and if confirmed I will support the continuation of these critical war legacy programs.

Security cooperation extends to shared interests and regional stability by countering global threats and aggressive behavior in the South China Sea.

The second U.S.-Vietnam Law Enforcement and Security Dialogue held in September advanced joint interests and efforts to strengthen law enforcement and disrupt transnational crimes such as online scam operations in Southeast Asia that defraud Americans of billions of dollars annually.

If confirmed, I will make every effort to deepen security cooperation and ensure that our efforts are targeted, effective, and aligned with key strategic priorities that benefit the American people.

Bilateral trade with Vietnam has grown enormously in recent years and the opportunity for shared economic growth is significant, yet the current trade relationship is imbalanced.

If confirmed, I will promote equitable market access for U.S. goods and services including technology, energy, and agricultural products, support the development of resilient diversified supply chains, and encourage Vietnamese investment in the United States.

The bonds between American and Vietnamese people are robust. Vietnamese Americans are the fourth largest Asian-American population in the United States. Tourism and student programs are trending upward.

While this relationship is strong, Vietnam's human rights record continues to be of concern with reports of harassment, arrests, and convictions.

If confirmed, I will urge the government of Vietnam to respect freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion.

I will also do everything I can to ensure the safety and welfare of United States citizens in Vietnam and the people serving at Mission Vietnam. Through open dialogue, we will continue to advance regional security, shared prosperity, and our bilateral relationship.

If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating with Mission Vietnam's expert team and partnering with Congress to deliver results on behalf of the American people.

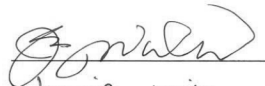
One final note. My thoughts are with the Vietnamese people as they recover from deadly storms and rains resulting in devastating floods and landslides.

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

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

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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: Jennifer Wicks

Date: December 11, 2025

[The prepared statement of Ms. Wicks McNamara follows:]

Prepared Statement of Jennifer Wicks McNamara

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of this Committee—it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the trust they have placed in me.

I am joined by my husband, George, and a few close friends. My parents, Gary and Elizabeth Wicks, and my daughter, Kim, are here in spirit—watching from Minnesota and Scotland, respectively—as well as other relatives and friends. I'm grateful for their ongoing support. I am deeply appreciative of my White House and State Department colleagues for everything they have done to support my nomination.

I am a Midwest girl at heart—growing up in Minnesota with public school teacher parents who instilled in me the values of hard work and public service. My government career began more than 31 years ago with the U.S. Army at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Korea and took me to Hawaii and Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 2003, I joined the State Department, serving in several offices before becoming the Director of the Office of Presidential Appointments in 2012. There, I have guided and advanced about 1,000 candidates for State Department leadership positions requiring the advice and consent of the Senate, and Presidential appointment. It's a true privilege to be on the "other side" before you now.

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The strength of our military cooperation builds on extensive efforts to address the legacies of the Vietnam War. With congressional support, the United States has partnered with Vietnam to remove 700,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance, provide assistance to one million persons with disabilities, and address dioxin contamination in Danang and at Bien Hoa Air Base. For decades, Vietnam provided critical assistance to enable the repatriation of more than 1,000 American soldiers' remains, and if confirmed I will do my utmost to support the continuation of these critical war legacy programs.

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Bilateral trade with Vietnam has grown enormously in recent years, and the opportunity for shared economic growth is significant. Yet, the current trade relationship is imbalanced. If confirmed, I will promote equitable market access for U.S. goods and services, including technology, energy, and agricultural products; support the development of resilient, diversified supply chains; and encourage Vietnamese investment in the United States.

The bonds between the American and Vietnamese people are robust. Vietnamese Americans are the fourth largest Asian American population in the United States, contributing to strong people-to-people ties. Tourism and student programs are trending upward. While this relationship is strong, Vietnam's human rights record continues to be of concern with reports of harassment, arrests, and convictions of activists, journalists, bloggers, and religious freedom advocates due to speech deemed critical of the government. If confirmed, I will urge the Government of Vietnam to respect freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion or belief. I also will do everything I can to ensure the safety and welfare of all United States citizens in Vietnam and personnel serving in Mission Vietnam.

Through open dialogue we will continue to advance regional security, shared prosperity, and our bilateral partnership. If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating with Mission Vietnam's expert team and partnering with Congress to deliver results on behalf of the American people. One final note—my thoughts are with the Vietnamese people as they recover from deadly storms resulting in devastating floods

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

Senator RISCH. Well, thank you, Ms. Wicks, and our appreciation of this committee, both sides and all of us, for the work you have done over the years on helping us.

No one knows better than you that dealing with the appointments and people's issues past and present—mostly past—can be very challenging, and we appreciate the work that you have done for us.

So thank you. Thanks so much.

Mr. Meyer.

STATEMENT OF ERIC MEYER, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Mr. MEYER. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

I am honored by this nomination and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the trust and confidence they have shown in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to advance U.S. foreign policy interests in Sri Lanka.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my family—to my wife Karina, our daughters Amelia and Anika—for their unwavering support and optimism throughout our career in the Foreign Service.

They are currently at our posting in Oslo and have met each of our moves as well as my long absences with endless love, resilience, and grace.

I am also profoundly grateful to my parents, who are watching from California, for their steadfast and enduring love, support, and guidance, which continue to inspire me every day.

It has been an honor and a privilege the last 24 years to serve alongside the men and women of the United States Foreign Service. Our most important duty is to protect U.S. citizens and U.S. interests abroad.

If confirmed, my top priority will be to ensure the safety and security of all U.S. citizens in Sri Lanka. First, I want to acknowledge the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwah and the tragic loss of over 600 people, the hundreds more that remain missing, and the hundreds of thousands displaced.

I should also highlight Embassy Colombo's efforts to support Sri Lanka during one of the largest and most challenging natural disasters it has faced.

The United States has committed \$2 million in urgent assistance and leveraged the United States military's strategic airlift capabilities to support relief efforts. The U.S. response speaks to our strong and enduring partnership with Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka sits astride some of the world's busiest shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean with U.S. Navy vessels and two-thirds of the world's seaborne crude oil regularly transiting its waters.

Its strategic location makes it a focal point for U.S. efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and counter adversarial influences including China's growing presence in the region.

If confirmed, I will lead government and industry partners to promote and protect U.S. security and commercial interests in the Indian Ocean region.

Safeguarding waterways and ports for trade, locking in commercial opportunities for U.S. companies, and supporting Sri Lanka's maritime and economic sovereignty are key aspects of my vision for enhancing our bilateral ties.

From the economic and political crisis of 2022 to the recent natural disaster, Sri Lanka is a resilient country poised to become a regional economic leader.

In the next year, for example, the Port of Colombo stands to double cargo handling capacity, highlighting the significant and strategic opportunities that lie in Sri Lanka's ports, logistics, and shipping sectors.

If confirmed, I will continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to adopt economic reforms that improve its business climate for U.S. companies and strengthen U.S.-Sri Lanka economic ties.

Sri Lanka's proximity to global maritime lanes also calls for close cooperation in promoting a secure Indo-Pacific region.

Our defense and law enforcement partnerships are critical to addressing security challenges, including assisting in disaster relief, countering transnational crime and trafficking, enhancing maritime domain awareness, and safeguarding Sri Lanka's maritime sovereignty and port security.

If confirmed, I will work to deepen our shared commitment to an open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region and foster Sri Lanka's role as an emerging regional security partner.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading, developing, and empowering our talented interagency team to implement a foreign policy that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

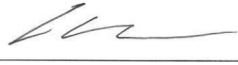
I also pledge to work closely with you to support our growing strategic partnership with Sri Lanka. I am grateful to this committee for its consideration, and I look forward to your questions.

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: Eric Meyer

Date: December 11, 2025

[The prepared statement of Mr. Meyer follows:]

Prepared Statement of Eric Meyer

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

I am honored by this nomination and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the trust and confidence they have shown in me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to advance U.S. foreign policy interests in Sri Lanka.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my family—my wife, Karina, and our daughters, Amelia and Anika—for their unwavering support and optimism throughout our career in the Foreign Service. They are currently at our posting in Oslo and have met each of our moves, as well as my long absences, with endless love, resilience, and grace.

I am also profoundly grateful to my parents for their steadfast and enduring love, support, and guidance, which continue to inspire me every day.

It has been an honor and a privilege the last 24 years to serve alongside the men and women of the United States Foreign Service. Our most important duty is to protect U.S. citizens and U.S. interests abroad. If confirmed, my top priority will be to ensure the safety and security of all U.S. citizens in Sri Lanka.

First, I want to acknowledge the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwah and the tragic loss of over 600 people, the hundreds more that remain missing, and the hundreds of thousands displaced. I should also highlight Embassy Colombo's efforts to support Sri Lanka during one of the largest and most challenging natural disasters it has faced.

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From the economic and political crises of 2022 to the recent natural disaster, Sri Lanka is a resilient country poised to become a regional economic leader. In the next year, for example, the Port of Colombo—recognized among the top 25 largest ports globally—stands to double its cargo handling capacity, highlighting the significant and strategic opportunities that lie in Sri Lanka's ports, logistics, and shipping sectors. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to adopt economic reforms that improve its business climate for U.S. companies and strengthen U.S.-Sri Lanka economic ties.

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If confirmed, I look forward to leading, developing, and empowering our talented interagency team to implement a foreign policy that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. I also pledge to work closely with you to support our growing strategic partnership with Sri Lanka. I'm grateful to this committee for its consideration and I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

Senator Risch. Thank you, Mr. Meyer.
Mr. LoGerfo, you are up.

STATEMENT OF GREGORY LOGERFO, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE

Mr. LOGERFO. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished members of this committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Ambassador at Large at the Department of State.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence. If confirmed, I will work with this committee and with Congress to advance Administration counterterrorism priorities to ensure the safety and security of the United States and our interests.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues. I am joined today by my wife Randa, our son Frank, who is an undergraduate at the University of Florida, and Louis, who is a high school student in Arlington, Virginia, for their support over the years including our time together at overseas missions, as well as during my two unaccompanied tours in Iraq.

I would also like to express love and appreciation to my parents Dr. Frank LoGerfo and Judith Molnar LoGerfo, for their support and for raising me to understand that as American citizens we all have the opportunity to reach our God given potential in the greatest country on Earth.

I would also like to thank my mentors and teachers at Boston College High School, especially Nicholas Argento, for setting me on the right path.

For over 25 years in the Foreign Service I have had the privilege of advancing American interests in challenging assignments, usually against a backdrop of significant terrorist threats.

I joined the Foreign Service shortly before the September 11 attacks. I have seen our counterterrorism successes through American heroism, courage, and sacrifice, as well as setbacks and lessons learned.

The Trump administration is committed to preventing a major terrorist attack on the homeland and has advanced safety and security at home and abroad by implementing peace through strength.

The Administration's focus is on destroying and disrupting terrorist networks, holding state sponsors accountable, securing our borders, and degrading the capacity of terrorist groups who threaten the United States.

If confirmed, I will work with our diplomatic partners to advance the Trump administration's principle that America first does not mean America alone. We have strong counterterrorism partnerships across the globe.

I will deepen these relationships to advance American interests and will expand burden sharing by those partners. The terrorist threat we face today is different from what we faced following the September 11 attacks.

ISIS and al-Qaeda continue to recruit, radicalize, and encourage their followers across the globe to conduct attacks in their home countries.

The New Year's Day attack in New Orleans was a stark reminder of ISIS' persistent reach, capabilities, and ambitions. In addition to the global jihadi network, antisemitism and anti-government animus have become significant motivating factors in today's terrorist threat environment.

President Trump announced in his inaugural speech that the Administration would confront the narco terrorists wreaking havoc in the homeland and across the Western Hemisphere, and Secretary Rubio has designated 14 cartels and gangs as foreign terrorist organizations.

In addition, although Iran has been greatly weakened, Tehran and its terrorist proxies including the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Hamas, continue to destabilize the Middle East and show interest in expanding their reach to other regions.

As we execute President Trump's National Security Presidential Memorandum and exert maximum pressure on Iran and its terrorist proxies, we must remain focused on potential increased Iranian lethal planning globally including against U.S. officials, journalists, Jewish targets, and Iranian dissidents in the United States.

If confirmed, I will perform the role of counterterrorism coordinator in the letter and spirit of the duties described in Section 2301 of Public Law 105-277 to supervise international counterterrorism activities working within the interagency and with my diplomatic counterparts to advance the Trump administration's policies to keep our country safe and secure.

I will ensure that our foreign assistance resources are spent wisely on effective programs to keep America safe and that every program is thoroughly vetted and reviewed and properly briefed to Congress.

If confirmed, I commit to working with you to ensure that Congress is regularly informed and consulted on the Bureau of Counterterrorism's efforts to advance Administration priorities.

Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen, I appreciate your consideration and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

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Answer: Yes
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Answer: Yes
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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: Gregory Lo Grato

Date: December 11, 2025

[The prepared statement of Mr. LoGerfo follows:]

Prepared Statement of Gregory LoGerfo

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished Members of this committee. It is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Ambassador at large at the Department of State.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence. If confirmed, I will work with this committee and with Congress to advance Administration counterterrorism priorities to ensure the safety and security of the United States and our interests.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues especially my wife, Randa, and our sons, Frank and Louis, who are here today, for their support over the years, including our time together at overseas missions, as well as during my two unaccompanied tours in Iraq. I would also like to express love and appreciation to my parents, Dr. Frank LoGerfo and Judith Molnar LoGerfo, for their support, and for raising me to understand that as American citizens, we all have the opportunity to reach our potential in the greatest country on earth.

Over 25-years in the Foreign Service, I have had the privilege of advancing American interests in challenging assignments, usually against the backdrop of significant terrorist threats. I joined the Foreign Service shortly before the September 11 attacks. I have seen our counterterrorism successes through American heroism, courage, and sacrifice, as well as setbacks and lessons learned.

The Trump Administration is committed to preventing a major terrorist attack on the homeland and has advanced safety and security at home and abroad by implementing Peace through Strength. The Administration's focus is on destroying and disrupting terrorist networks, holding state sponsors accountable, securing our borders, and degrading the capacity of terrorist groups to threaten the United States.

If confirmed, I will work with our diplomatic partners to advance the Trump Administration's principle that "America first" does not mean "America alone". We have strong counterterrorism partnerships across the globe. I will deepen these relationships to advance American interests and will expand burden sharing by those partners.

The terrorist threat we face today is different from what we faced following the September 11, 2001 attacks. ISIS and al-Qa'ida continue to recruit, radicalize, and encourage their followers across the globe to conduct attacks in their home countries. The New Year's Day attack in New Orleans was a stark reminder of ISIS' persistent reach, capabilities, and ambitions. In addition to the global Jihadi network, antisemitism and anti-government animus have become significant motivating factors in today's terrorist threat environment. President Trump announced in his inaugural speech that the Administration would confront the narco-terrorists wreaking havoc in the Homeland and across the Western Hemisphere, and Secretary Rubio has designated 14 cartels and gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

Additionally, although Iran has been greatly weakened, Tehran and its terrorist proxies, including the Houthis, Hizballah, and Hamas, continue to destabilize the Middle East and show interest in expanding their reach to other regions. As we execute President Trump's National Security Presidential Memorandum and exert "maximum pressure" on Iran and its terrorist proxies, we remain focused on potential increased Iranian lethal plotting globally, including against U.S. officials, journalists, Jewish targets, and Iranian dissidents in the United States.

If confirmed, I will perform the role of the Counterterrorism Coordinator in the letter and spirit of the duties described in Section 2301 of Public Law 105-277, to supervise international counterterrorism activities, working within the interagency and with my diplomatic counterparts to advance the Trump Administration's policies to keep our country safe and secure. I will ensure that our foreign assistance resources are spent wisely on effective programs to keep America safe, and that every program is thoroughly vetted and reviewed, and properly briefed to Congress. If confirmed, I commit to working with you to ensure that Congress is regularly informed and consulted on the Bureau of Counterterrorism's efforts to advance Administration priorities.

Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen, I appreciate your consideration and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Senator RISCH. Well, thank you very much.

We will start with a round of questions here by the members.

I want to start, Mr. Meyer, with you focusing on Sri Lanka for a minute. You know, what the Chinese did to Sri Lanka with their port has become a poster child around the world for why people should not do business with China.

It appears that Sri Lanka has learned its lesson from that pretty bitter pill to swallow. Are you in agreement that they are trying to move away from China? Is that your perception also?

Mr. MEYER. Thank you. Thank you, Senator, for that important question.

We have a very open and transparent relationship with Sri Lanka, and bilateral relationships should be open and transparent, and if I am confirmed I look forward to working with the government of Sri Lanka to ensure that they assert their sovereignty and that includes over ports.

As you mentioned, the Chinese constructed a large port in Hambantota, so it is essential that we work with Sri Lanka as they—and that includes in security cooperation and other areas.

Senator RISCH. Well, the Chinese hooked Sri Lanka with the money, obviously. That is what it is usually all about. Do you think they have learned their lesson on that? I mean, they took terrible advantage of the Sri Lankans.

Mr. MEYER. They did, and I believe they have. Sri Lanka has expressed interest in working closer with the United States.

One of the things that we have been encouraging them to do, and if I am confirmed I would do so as well, is that they continue along their path and commitments in their IMF program because economic sovereignty and independence is important as well, and if they can stick to their reforms this will also create opportunities for increased U.S. investment and companies to invest in Sri Lanka, which will, again, strengthen our ties with Sri Lanka.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Mr. LoGerfo, your portfolio is probably as big and broad as anybody sitting here, and a difficult one at that. As we have continued to squeeze, particularly ISIS, up in the Syria—northeast Syria region—more and more and more ISIS has migrated to the Sahel and that area, and it is apparent that to do business in the Sahel, to squeeze them, to go after them, even to operate there, is not only complicated but pretty dangerous for America.

What are your thoughts on that? What are your ideas about pressing forward in the Sahel?

Mr. LOGERFO. Mr. Chairman, thank you for that question.

And you are absolutely right. Broadly, we have had success against ISIS, defeating the territorial caliphate in Syria. We also have taken decisive action and working with partners to address the threat of ISIS Khorasan in Central Asia and with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

With respect to the Sahel, we are—we will always take decisive action to protect American interests. I think the Sahel is an area where we have to focus on burden sharing with our partners in the region and also burden sharing with our European partners.

When we share risk we need to share burden, and we also need to share resources. We are building and we have built over the past few years relationships with the littoral states, with Cote d'Ivoire,

Benin, and Togo. They are all facing threats from al-Qaeda affiliates and also from ISIS.

And we are going to look forward to developing additional relationships. Certainly, if confirmed, I will do that.

And then with our European friends this is, frankly, geographically more proximate to them, and I would expect that we can advance more collaboration and partnership with partners from the European continent.

Senator RISCH. I appreciate your thoughts on that.

Senator Shaheen.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Weiland, as I identified in my opening remarks, there have been a number of cuts to the INL Bureau that I think will have a significant impact on the work of the bureau.

So can you talk about how you will continue to effectively operate given those program cuts and dealing with a budget that is 80 percent less than in previous years?

Mr. WEILAND. Yes, ma'am. Thank you for that question, Senator Shaheen.

And before I get to your answer, I wanted to commend you on what you have done in New Hampshire regarding reducing overdose deaths.

You know, one thing we often point to is overdose deaths across the U.S. falling right now, but that is a little bit more complicated than that because in certain States it is rising quite drastically. In other States it is falling precipitously.

In New Hampshire, over the last year meth and fentanyl overdoses declined by 17 percent, which is a testament to everything that you have done, as well as folks on the local level.

As far as—

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Let me just comment on that because I think you are right. But it has been the result of more than 10 years of work at the State and local level with Federal support from treatment and recovery programs, from making sure that Narcan is available to people throughout the State, working with law enforcement, with schools, with mental health agencies.

So, as you know, it really requires a comprehensive approach, and that is one reason I am concerned about the loss at INL of support, staff, and programming.

Mr. WEILAND. Yes, ma'am. I understand your concern, and I think what the President's budget, which of course came over to you all and which you all will deliberate over and make your own decisions on, I think what the cuts you are referring to forced INL to do is to take a hard look at its programming.

I think over the years there has been a temptation to just slap the counter narcotics label onto programming and just assume that the programs are effective, and you know, and what we saw in the early days of this Administration when we started scrutinizing programming was that oftentimes our own internal analyses showed that these programs were ineffective.

And so what we tried to do was to streamline, to cut where we just were not seeing the results that we needed to see, and then,

obviously, to continue to fund the programs that we thought were most effective.

Senator SHAHEEN. One of the other areas that INL has done very good work has been with Ukraine in helping to address corruption in that country and to work with their civilian security and law enforcement organizations, and I support that excellent work.

But again, I was concerned that there were real cuts to the rule of law programming, and can you speak to why that is and how you can continue to ensure that U.S. supports anti-corruption work there?

Mr. WEILAND. Yes, ma'am. I think the first priority of President Trump when it comes to Ukraine is to end the war and to stop the killing, and so what we have done with INL or what the INL Bureau has done since the beginning of the Administration is to continue to fund hard security programs like, for example, the mobile firing teams that are so pivotal in preventing attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

So that takes a variety of forms but ammunition, weaponry—you know, armored vehicles, and the like. So all of that has continued.

We are also continuing to fund some of the entities like NABU and SAPO, which are the investigative and prosecutorial entities inside Ukraine that are taking a hard look at corruption internally and that are so pivotal to ensuring a fair playing ground for American businesses that are operating in the country as well.

So I think that the corruption and the hard security programs have continued. One area that I think may have been scaled back slightly is, for example, in the war crimes area, and that is a result of our conversations with the Europeans.

The EU and the U.K. are both eager to take on more of that burden, and so as a result of those conversations we found it prudent to not be duplicative and redundant of what our partners were doing.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, I am glad to hear you are still committed to those efforts.

You were the senior bureau official at INL when the Trump administration negotiated a deal to send more than 200 Venezuelan deportees to the CECOT prison in El Salvador.

There are credible reports of human rights abuses including torture, sexual violence committed against these deportees. Do you approve providing \$4.7 million to El Salvador to continue this kind of deal, taking prisoners and then torturing them?

Mr. WEILAND. Senator Shaheen, we have a very productive working relationship with El Salvador under President Bukele.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, I am not questioning the working relationship. I am questioning spending money to send detainees to El Salvador to a prison where they are mistreated.

Mr. WEILAND. Well, Senator Shaheen, respectfully, the State Department is not in the business of deportations. I would refer you to DHS for anything regarding that.

What we did send was, as you alluded to, \$4.7 million to address anti-crime and criminal justice needs inside El Salvador. At the time that I was senior bureau official none of that money had been spent.

The country El Salvador is under strict obligations to report on how they are using those funds. There is no indication thus far as far as I am aware of that any of it has gone to the CECOT prison to which you alluded. But—

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, can I get your commitment that if you are confirmed that you will ensure that there is an investigation into how deportees are being handled at that prison and that none of our taxpayer money is going to provide support for the El Salvadorians—

Mr. WEILAND. I would be happy to commit—

Senator SHAHEEN [continuing]. For torture and terrorism in the prison?

Mr. WEILAND. I would be happy to commit to following up on that with you.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Senator Ricketts.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you to all of our nominees here today.

Congratulations, and thank you to your families as well because we know that you would not be able to serve without your families' support, and we appreciate your service to our country and your interest in it.

The Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency has one of the more solemn duties that our nation provides, and that is bringing home Americans who have not returned home.

We saw this commitment again in Da Nang this summer. The U.S.-Vietnamese teams conducted a difficult underwater recovery operation as part of an ongoing effort to account for more than 1,500 still missing Americans from the Vietnam war.

DPAA's work is carried out in two world class facilities, one of which is in Hawaii and the other one which is at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, and it is a deep source of pride for the State of Nebraska to participate in that.

When I visited the facility as Governor I saw firsthand the professionalism and reverence that Nebraskans bring to this mission. Families across the country depend on this work, and Nebraska is honored to play a role in fulfilling our nation's promise to those who served.

Ms. Wicks, as ambassador how will you help strengthen the cooperation with the Vietnamese government to support DPAA's recovery mission?

Ms. WICKS McNAMARA. Senator, thank you for that question and also thank you for the time that you spent with me talking about the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship earlier.

I think the war legacy programs of which—what you outlined is one of them—is certainly one of the foundational efforts that led to the reestablishment of our relations 30 years ago.

Certainly, if I am confirmed I will continue to promote and advocate and reaffirm the commitment that other senior government leaders have made to our American people, those impacted by the Vietnam war as well as certainly our counterparts in Vietnam.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you, Ms. Wicks.

Further on our relationship with Vietnam, Nebraska is an agricultural State. We are a powerhouse. Agriculture is the heart and soul of what we do in our State.

Our farmers and ranchers drive our State's economy, exporting nearly \$7 billion in domestic agricultural products in 2024. For Nebraska, trade is the backbone of our economy and the engine of job creation and a way for rural communities to continue to thrive.

The opportunity for my State in Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam, is enormous. Vietnam's imports of American agricultural goods have surged this year with corn and soybeans up 35 percent, and Nebraska beef is gaining a growing foothold among Vietnamese consumers.

With the recently announced trade framework, America maintains a 20 percent tariff on Vietnamese goods while limiting nearly all Vietnamese tariffs and nontariff barriers on American products.

It also strengthened economic security cooperation and includes a \$2.9 billion pledge for purchases of U.S. agricultural commodities.

With an effective pro-American trade agreement framework there is no better moment for our ambassador to promote export opportunities for Nebraska farmers.

What will you do as ambassador to help get the trade agreement framework across the finish line so that our farmers and ranchers can benefit from it?

Ms. WICKS MCNAMARA. Senator, thank you for that question.

Certainly, I agree with you that the ongoing negotiations on the trade framework are a very positive step. I look forward to supporting, if confirmed, however I can.

Certainly, the specific negotiations are being conducted by the U.S. trade representative, and if confirmed I will do everything I can to support and enable those negotiations to continue and an agreement to be finalized.

Senator RICKETTS. So as an ambassador what kind of concrete steps can you take to expand Nebraska's access to the Vietnamese market for exports, specifically when we are talking about things like corn and soybeans and other agricultural products?

Ms. WICKS MCNAMARA. Thank you for that question, Senator.

I am aware that certainly we have had a number of delegations, agricultural based, from different States to include Nebraska, come to Vietnam.

I believe that that is a very beneficial step for that communication and that open—those open channels of discussion to occur between the people on the ground, so to speak, those representing various States with their counterparts in Vietnam.

Senator RICKETTS. Yes. Actually, when I was Governor I led a trade mission to Vietnam in 2019 when Dan Kritenbrink was the ambassador there, and he did a fantastic job of making connections for us, and I look forward to you doing the same when you are in the role there in Vietnam as well.

So thank you very much.

Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Ricketts.

Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and congratulations to the witnesses.

Mr. Weiland, I want to follow up on a line of questions from Senator Shaheen about budget cuts in the INL realm. Budget submissions are for the President and the Secretary of State—I get that—but were you involved in discussions in your capacity at State about the shrinking of the INL budget, about an 80 percent cut to the division’s budget?

Mr. WEILAND. I was not involved in conversations about the 80 percent cut.

Senator Kaine. And so your awareness of the rationale that you described—we were trying to look at programs that succeeded and those that did not—you were not involved in that analysis, but that is what you have been told by others who were?

Mr. WEILAND. No, Senator. To clarify, I was involved in the review of programming, for sure. I was not involved in discussions with the White House about the overall top line budget number.

But certainly as part of the foreign assistance review that Secretary Rubio began when he took office I was involved in looking, along with every, you know, security and foreign assistance bureau at State at, you know, a comprehensive analysis of our programming and was involved in discussions with our posts, with our diplomats overseas.

Senator Kaine. Have I stated it fairly, just by following up on Senator Shaheen, that the budget, I believe, was about \$5 billion in December 2024. The current presidential proposal is an 80 percent cut of that budget?

Mr. WEILAND. Well, the current president’s budget request is about \$125 million but that—

Senator Kaine. From \$5 billion to \$125 million?

Mr. WEILAND. Well, sir, the 125 number does not include the prior year funds. We have a pipeline of somewhere between \$1 billion and \$2 billion, which we are also able to access.

Senator Kaine. OK. Let me move on. Let me move on.

What is the current status of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative?

Mr. WEILAND. It is, as far as I know—I have not been in the Bureau since June, but as far as I know INL continues to fund a variety of Caribbean programs, and the Administration is quite supportive of that.

Senator Kaine. Here is a concern that we have that I will just state for the record is the Administration’s commitment to sort of the counter narcotics effort. Obviously, the military actions in the Caribbean, Pacific, potentially against Venezuela are getting a lot of attention.

At the same time, the INL budget has been significantly cut, and the President has pardoned notorious narco traffickers, most recently Juan Orlando Hernandez, the former president of Honduras.

I was a missionary in Honduras many years ago. I have a deep understanding of the damage that he caused to that country, prosecuted and convicted in a United States Federal court of leading a narco trafficking cartel that trafficked more than 400 tons of cocaine into the United States, received a 45 year prison sentence.

Less than 1 year into that sentence the President pardoned him. I know it would normally not be in the State Department’s remit

to offer opinions upon pardons. That would normally be a DOJ thing.

But because this was a head of state were you involved in any discussions in the State Department about the wisdom of pardoning this individual and what message it might send with respect to our counter narcotics mission in the Americas?

Mr. WEILAND. No, sir, I was not. I do not currently work on Central America issues.

Senator KAINE. Let me ask you this. Have you been involved at all in the preparation of the National Security Strategy that the President and his team released last Thursday?

Mr. WEILAND. The preparation of it, like, the drafting? No, sir.

Senator KAINE. How about even discussions about what should be in it, particularly with respect to items dealing with the Americas?

Mr. WEILAND. Certainly. I mean, everyone at the State Department, my colleagues here, we have all been in discussions of—you know, regarding the strategy once it was released.

I think when it comes to the Western Hemisphere the key phrase that I picked up on was enlist and expand. The President has made it very clear that he wants to enlist the cooperation of our partners throughout the region to carry out.

Senator KAINE. I am glad you said partners because a key phrase I picked up was the Monroe Doctrine, which I found very puzzling. The Monroe Doctrine was a doctrine that was not about Americas' nations as partners; it was about the U.S. dominating the Americas and trying to keep European nations out.

You would not mention Little Bighorn in a celebration of Indigenous Persons Day. If you are trying to send a message to the Americas about the relationships we want to have, and you call it a new Monroe Doctrine or a corollary to the Monroe Doctrine you are starting off with your foot in a deep bucket with nations in the region with whom we have partnerships and others whom we would like to.

Have you lived in Latin America, Mr. Weiland?

Mr. WEILAND. Yes, I have.

Senator KAINE. I thought that was the case, and I think anybody who has probably understands how challenging referencing the Monroe Doctrine is if you are trying to partner with those nations.

Mr. LoGerfo, I have a question for you. Have you been at all involved in the discussions with the White House about the listing of designated terrorist organizations for purposes of the military strikes?

That label is well known, and I know who is on it, but I cannot talk about it because what I know I know from classified. But were you involved in discussions about who to designate as a DTO that might then be subject to these military strikes?

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Kaine, thank you for the question. I just want to make sure I understand. You are asking about domestic terror organizations?

Senator KAINE. No, that is designated terror organizations.

Mr. LOGERFO. Sorry. Thank you.

Senator KAINE. So just to put it on the record but to stay clear of classified material, the Office of Legal Adviser at State has

issued a legal opinion about the legality of military action against certain groups in international waters.

I have deep questions about the legal rationale, but I am not really asking about that. There is a designation of certain groups that could be subject to military action as part of that legal opinion, and the term that is used for them is designated terrorist organizations—DTOs—and my question of you is were you involved in discussions about who should be listed as a DTO?

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Kaine, no.

Senator KAINE. OK. All right. Thank you.

I yield back, Mr. Chair.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Kaine.

Senator Merkley.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And Ms. Wicks, I wanted to follow up on—I gather someone asked this before I arrived—about the partnership with Vietnam, particularly over the war legacy projects.

I really supported what Senator Leahy had forged in terms of our work to provide DNA help to return martyrs back to their families, to clean up the remnants of the high contamination at the air bases, to continue to help identify and collect cluster munitions that were left over from the war, and to assist in the treatment of individuals who were affected either by those munitions exploding or by the Agent Orange—those four programs.

Do you support all four of those programs?

Ms. WICKS McNAMARA. Senator, thank you for that question.

And yes, all of those war legacy programs that you mentioned are things that I commit to supporting and furthering that partnership as much as I can.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you. I really appreciate it, because they really provided the foundation for the restoration of a lot of respect and economic partnership in all sorts of other ways over the Mekong Delta, the development of our comprehensive strategic partnership with Vietnam in which we would like to see that economic partnership thrive, and quite frankly, see a lot of factories that may be located in China right now move to Vietnam. So I thank you. Appreciate that.

And Mr. Weiland, you were originally assigned, I have read, to lead the USAID transition at the start of the—is that correct?

Mr. WEILAND. My primary responsibilities, Senator, were for the State Department transition team.

Senator MERKLEY. OK. So when Secretary Rubio was here he said that the weekend that the AID was fed into the wood chipper that he was very actively involved canceling some 500 contracts that weekend. Were you involved in that at all?

Mr. WEILAND. I was not.

Senator MERKLEY. Did this strategy of shutting down AID very suddenly stem from work that you had laid out or a vision you had laid out? Was that a strategy you had proposed or supported?

Mr. WEILAND. I was not aware of that strategy.

Senator MERKLEY. Until it occurred?

Mr. WEILAND. Correct.

Senator MERKLEY. Until it occurred. Thank you.

So right now, we urge other governments to strengthen the rule of law and follow due process. That is, certainly, relevant to the position you are nominated for.

And yet we have carried out these 22 lethal strikes on suspected drug boats over the last few months, an extrajudicial killing of over 80 people without arrest, without due process, without investigation.

How can we expect other countries to respect the rule of law when we are blatantly violating it?

Mr. WEILAND. Thank you for that question, Senator Merkley.

Of course, I am not here speaking in a legal capacity so I cannot comment on the Article 2 analysis and sort of the underlying legal questions that you raised.

But I will say that I think that if you were growing up, for example, in the Tepito neighborhood in Mexico City or in Guayaquil in Ecuador where car bombs are going off right now, or you lived in the favelas outside Rio de Janeiro that were recently raided because of the gangs that control those areas, I think that you would welcome a more aggressive approach to a persistent problem that these folks have grown up with, and that is the sentiment that is reflected in conversations that I have had with leadership in foreign countries throughout the region.

Senator MERKLEY. Yes. So interesting because actually a lot of folks want us to be able to dismantle those networks, and when the Coast Guard stops a boat, investigates it, finds drugs, provides that evidence, arrests those individuals, interrogates them over the process of prosecution, finds out more information about the networks, they are able to do much more to dismantle those networks than conducting an extrajudicial killing on a small boat in the middle of the Caribbean.

So why not do what is legal and effective rather than what is illegal and ineffective?

Mr. WEILAND. Well, sir, I think that President Trump has made clear that this is a multidimensional problem. The strikes in the Caribbean are one facet of this.

But what INL is involved in is strategic decisionmaking regarding foreign assistance dollars, and I think that INL, both while I was in the bureau and since I left has continued to fund projects and partners throughout Latin America, both in terms of hard security needs and also training and the like, and there is no indication that that will not continue. That is what I am here to interview for, and that is what I am excited to continue while I am—you know, if confirmed.

Senator MERKLEY. Mr. Chair, I will just note for the record that I asked why it makes sense to do something that is illegal and ineffective rather than what is legal and effective. We did not receive a direct answer for that, disappointingly so.

Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Well, Senator Merkley, let me help you out.

Senator MERKLEY. Mr. Chairman, if you weigh in on my questioning, I am going to weigh in on your question. Is that fair?

Senator RISCH. Fair enough.

Senator MERKLEY. All right.

Senator RISCH. Which question do you want to weigh in on, mine?

Senator MERKLEY. It is your turn.

Senator RISCH. Well, I am not going to ask any questions.

Let me state for the record, to be absolutely clear, the President of the United States has determined through legal advice that we have spent hours and hours and hours sitting through that the attacks in the Caribbean are absolutely, totally, and 100 percent legal under U.S. law and international law.

In addition to that, we have received considerable evidence that in the effectiveness—when he puts \$50 million worth of drugs on the floor of the ocean there are thousands of lives saved in the United States.

Those are the reasons for the attacks, and that is what the record should reflect. I understand you have a different opinion on it. Appreciate that, Senator Merkley.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you, Mr.——

Senator RISCH. Senator Van Hollen.

Senator MERKLEY. Mr. Chair, you said I could weigh in on your point.

Senator RISCH. Feel free.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you.

First, it is well understood that the drugs, if they are being interdicted, which is unclear because the administration has no evidence to present to the American public, and if they had it they would probably be very happy to do so, but that particular channel is a channel that is used to supply Europe.

However, Honduras and Colombia provide the U.S., and the President just pardoned the kingpin of designing the cocaine superhighway to the United States of America that provided over 400 tons of deadly drugs to American citizens. That is hardly a campaign to protect America. It is hardly an America first effort. It is, in fact, doing the opposite.

Senator RISCH. Well, again, to make sure that the record is clear, I am the only member of this committee that sits on the Intelligence Committee. I am the senior Republican and have sat there for 17 years.

I cannot tell you how or what the methods and means are, but we have seen absolutely total 100 percent conclusive evidence that the boats that were sunk were carrying illegal drugs, and they have wound up on the floor of the ocean.

Senator MERKLEY. Mr. Chairman, can you explain why that evidence has not been presented to the American public?

Senator RISCH. Well, it is classified. If that evidence is produced, methods and means—as you know, we collect intelligence through various methods and means.

If they are going to continue to do this, and I urge them to continue to do this, they cannot disclose the methods and means, or obviously, their efforts will be frustrated.

Senator MERKLEY. It is very clear that if there was evidence collected it would have been bragged about.

Senator RISCH. No, no——

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Senator, if this is illegal—this is real simple—file suit. You guys do before breakfast every day against Trump.

Senator MERKLEY. Mr. Chairman, I hope you have read the Constitution that the ability to declare war comes from Congress, not from the President, and the Founders were emphatic that the issue of conducting war should never be invested in a single person.

And this is a staging that is setting up not just strikes in the Caribbean but preparation for strikes on land. The President himself has said he intends to conduct strikes on land.

He has closed the airspace over Venezuela, and we have not held a hearing in this committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, on this very important foreign affairs issue, and I would ask that we do so.

Senator RISCH. Senator, first of all, you and I have common ground in that only the U.S. Congress can declare war and participate in the war.

This is, clearly, not a war. It is kinetic action that every president has used over the years without a declaration of war from Congress.

Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have read the classified legal opinion and I have to say it is a lot of legal gobbledygook, which I do not think makes the case.

But Mr. Weiland, have you read this report? It is entitled, "You Have Arrived in Hell: Torture and Other Abuses Against Venezuelans in El Salvador's Mega Prison." Have you had a chance to read that?

Mr. WEILAND. I do not believe so, Senator.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. OK. This just came out last month. It is a report by Human Rights Watch and Cristosal, and it documents the torture and abuse of the Venezuelans who we sent to CECOT. It talks about sexual violence, torture, and inhumane prison conditions.

Now, I listened to your conversation with Senator Shaheen, and you were part of the State Department team that entered into the agreement with the government of El Salvador to take and imprison these Venezuelans, correct?

Mr. WEILAND. I was not involved in any deportation—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. The agreement that was signed, were you part of that?

Mr. WEILAND. I was involved in a decision to send \$4.7 million to El Salvador to address anti-crime and criminal justice needs.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Did you sign the agreement?

Mr. WEILAND. I did.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. So you signed the agreement. Well, I have got the agreement right here and it does say that these funds are to be used to help cover the costs of detention and prisons, does it not?

Mr. WEILAND. It allows that. It is not exclusive to those—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, are you saying no moneys have been used for that purpose? None of the \$4.7 million?

Mr. WEILAND. To my knowledge, no money has gone to CECOT. There is no indication that—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Have you tracked it? Have you looked at it?

Mr. WEILAND. I have not been in the office since June of this year. I cannot speak to what conversations have been had with the Salvadorans since that time.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. But you knew there was a risk that these Venezuelans who were being transferred to these prisons in El Salvador would be abused or tortured, did you not?

Mr. WEILAND. No, Senator. I am familiar with the Salvadoran people's overwhelming support for President Bukele—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. No, no. That is not my question, sir.

My question was you knew that there was a risk.

Let me just refer you to the El Salvador's 2023 State Department Human Rights Report. Have you ever looked at that?

Mr. WEILAND. I am familiar with the Human Rights Report, Senator, but I would just point to internal INL procedures that strictly scrutinize funding decisions.

For example, any money that the Salvadorans would like to use, if it is going to a security unit of their government—a law enforcement entity—they have to notify us 30 days in advance so we can conduct Leahy vetting.

In addition to that, they have to provide extensive financial reporting delineating exactly how they are using that \$4.7 million. On top of that, the agreement you just referenced has a provision that explicitly mandates adherence to international human rights treaties and conventions, including the—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. I can read it. I have got it right here. Thank you.

My question to you was based on the State Department's own 2023 Human Rights Reports which says that there are harsh and life threatening prison conditions in El Salvador's prisons, you knew that there was a risk that these individuals would be tortured, did you not? Did you think there was no risk they would be tortured?

Mr. WEILAND. Senator, prisons throughout the Latin America region can be rough places just like American prisons can be. In fact, after speaking with post I understand that—

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am going to—I want you to read this report that just came out—

Mr. WEILAND. I would be happy to.

Senator VAN HOLLEN [continuing]. And then get back to me and say whether these are acceptable prison conditions anywhere in the world. Can you do that?

Mr. WEILAND. I would be happy to, Senator.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Because you keep referencing what the agreement says, and I have read the agreement.

Would you not agree that you have an obligation—the U.S. Government has an obligation, to determine whether or not these monies are going for purposes that violate international humanitarian—international law or represent gross violations of human rights?

Mr. WEILAND. As I said, Senator, the agreements require strict reporting about all the uses of the funds and I commit, if con-

firmed, that I will follow up with the Salvadorans to get that information.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Let me ask it this way.

You cannot contract out your legal responsibilities to the government of El Salvador, can you?

Mr. WEILAND. I am not sure.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. You can ask them to report to you, but do you not have a legal obligation under the Leahy laws to make an independent determination of your own as to whether or not these moneys are being used in violation of the Leahy laws?

Mr. WEILAND. We do. If the money is going to law enforcement entities we have to conduct Leahy vetting, and I commit to doing that.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. All right. Well, the agreement anticipates, as you said, it says it is going to go to help with the prisons.

I would just say, Mr. Chairman, this is a very, very sordid chapter in American foreign policy. All of us want to make sure that we deal with drug running and whatever it may be, but there are many independent reports, as you know, including by the Cato Institute that determined that many of the individuals who were sent here, who were sent to this CECOT prison, were actually in the United States legally and that many, many of them had absolutely zero criminal record and yet they end up in CECOT and get tortured, at least according to this most recent report, and it is unfortunate the United States has been complicit in what I see as a gross violation of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Rosen.

Senator ROSEN. Well, thank you, Chairman Risch, for holding this hearing.

I want to thank our witnesses for testifying today—of course, for your willingness to serve.

So I want to talk a little bit about Syria and support for reintegration from Syria—excuse me. So, Mr. LoGerfo, there are around 30,000 people still being held at Al-Roj and al Hol detention camps in northeast Syria.

So far, the Iraqi government has led by example in repatriating approximately 20,000 of its citizens from these facilities. I hope that other countries will follow Iraq's leadership.

These facilities have been and continue to be breeding grounds for extremism, radicalization. This is why it is so important that repatriation and reintegration from these camps is done thoughtfully and coupled with deradicalization programs to avoid creating new CT—counterterrorism—threats.

So, Mr. LoGerfo, do you think the U.S. should play a role in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of Iraqis and Syrians returning to their communities of origin?

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Rosen, thank you for that question, and it is good to see you again.

President Trump took the historic step of recognizing the Syrian government, as you well know, and lifting sanctions to turn the page on the Assad regime which fell just about 1 year ago today.

Over the last 2 years through some very exceptional, if I may say, diplomacy, the United States and its partners, we have been able to help facilitate the repatriation of maybe about 35,000 or 40,000.

Senator ROSEN. So you support the rehabilitation, repatriation. So would I have your commitment, if confirmed, to strengthen—to work with me to strengthen CT programming that supports Syrian and Iraqi nationals returning from al Hol and Al-Roj?

Mr. LOGERFO. Yes, Senator Rosen.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. I have other questions, so we have a lot to talk about.

I want to talk about the Office of the Security Coordinator. So, Mr. Weiland, the U.S. led Office of the Security Coordinator—OSC—plays a key role in the West Bank by helping build the capacity of the Palestinian Authority security forces, by facilitating coordination between Israeli and PA security forces.

Historically, INL has administered OSC programming to help build and sustain an accountable security sector in the West Bank that keeps both Palestinians and Israelis safe.

So, Mr. Weiland, if confirmed how would you leverage OSC programming to help achieve mutually beneficial security objectives for both Israel and the Palestinian Authority?

Mr. WEILAND. Thank you for that question, Senator Rosen. It is a very important one.

I have had the great opportunity to speak directly with General Fenzel who is the current—currently occupies the seat, but my understanding is that he is rotating out shortly. I look forward to working closely with his successor.

I believe that the PASF has done some good work in the West Bank with the help of INL. It has, for example, raided a Jenin refugee camp, and you know, deactivated IEDs, collected weaponry, cash, et cetera. So they have definitely done some good work, and I have no doubt that that can be—

Senator ROSEN. They need to build on that.

Mr. WEILAND [continuing]. Can continue. Sorry?

Senator ROSEN. And you will continue to build on that, because I have another question for you, too, about women, peace, and security implementation because I have serious concerns about this Administration's lack of commitment to implementing the core tenets of Women, Peace, and Security Act. It is bipartisan legislation led by Ranking Member Shaheen and supported by then Senator Rubio.

So during your time as a Senior Bureau Official at INL or during your tenure at WHA have you received any guidance from Secretary Rubio or any other State Department senior official on whether you should continue implementing WPS?

Mr. WEILAND. I am not familiar with any direct guidance regarding that program specifically but certainly we are under guidance to go after the biggest victimizers and terrorizers of women worldwide, which are the drug cartels and narco terrorists that operate throughout the hemisphere and globally, and we at INL are certainly, you know, following up on that and using our programming to do exactly that.

Senator ROSEN. So if confirmed, under your leadership will INL fund and implement programs that align with the WPS principles such as increasing women's participation in law enforcement? And how do you think INL should promote law enforcement efforts to address gender based violence?

Mr. WEILAND. Again, I think the best way to defend and protect women is to continue aggressive attempts to dismantle the criminal networks that operate around the world, and we will use our funds to do that, both through hard equipment and through training programs.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. I look forward to working with you on that because it is not just violent criminals that abuse women across the world. People prey on vulnerable women for many reasons, and we need to address it from all areas.

Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Senator Cruz.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

Mr. LoGerfo, I want to ask you some questions about the Muslim Brotherhood. The President recently issued an executive order establishing that, quote, "It is the policy of the United States to cooperate with its regional partners to eliminate the capabilities and operations of Muslim Brotherhood chapters designated as foreign terrorist organizations" because their, quote, "activities threaten the security of American civilians in the Levant and other parts of the Middle East as well as the safety and stability of our regional partners."

As you know, the President's executive order is part of a broader, bottoms up strategy to designate Muslim Brotherhood chapters and then evaluate designating the global Muslim Brotherhood.

I have been pushing such designations my entire Senate career, and I strongly support President Trump's efforts here. If confirmed, you would be responsible for helping to implement, enforce, and expand his directives on the Brotherhood.

Let us begin very basically. Describe your understanding of the role that the Muslim Brotherhood plays in promoting violent jihad.

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Cruz, thank you for that question, and I think we have a historic opportunity to work with you, with your team.

If confirmed, I will certainly do that to address the Muslim Brotherhood. I think we are 100 percent on the same page. To get at your question about the Muslim Brotherhood, what we have seen over the years, of course, over decades, and as Secretary Rubio said, we have concerns with the Muslim Brotherhood.

We have concerns with their support following especially the October 7 attack, concerns with activity in Lebanon, in Egypt, in Jordan, and that is the basis for the executive order.

Now, working with you I would characterize this—as that group as the first step. We will look and continue to look in the Bureau of Counterterrorism.

This is our statutory mandate to look for the capacity and capability of making additional designations in accordance with the law. I have read your bill, and I look forward to working with you on advancing our efforts against the Muslim Brotherhood.

Senator CRUZ. Good. Do you believe the Muslim Brotherhood poses a threat to the national security of the United States?

Mr. LOGERFO. Yes.

Senator CRUZ. Now, let us pivot away from the President's executive order to what is happening here in Congress.

As I said earlier and as you observed, I have been pushing to designate the Muslim Brotherhood for more than a decade now. I have introduced legislation to do so in all but one Congress since I was elected.

This Congress I introduced a version of my bill, the Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act, that uses the same bottoms up approach that is in President Trump's executive order. It has bipartisan support in both chambers.

Last week, frustratingly, the House version of my bill was advanced but terminally weakened by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. They took out the designation part of the Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act.

The Senate should do better, and we should move the full bill on our side. Some public reports and statements have claimed that House members, including House Republicans, did not believe that Congress should have a role in crafting sanctions which are to be implemented by the executive.

I find that argument to be specious, and I know the vast majority of this committee does as well.

Mr. LoGerfo, I and my colleagues have implicit and explicit expectations that executive officials will work with, and when appropriate, even defer to this committee on issues of foreign policy including sanctions and including the designation of terrorist groups.

What is your view of the role that Congress plays on these issues including on initiatives like mine to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group?

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Cruz, thank you for your question.

I fully respect Congress's Article I authority in making laws including with respect to foreign terror organization designations or other types of designations. Whatever legislation is passed I will faithfully execute if I am confirmed.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

All right. Final question. One element of this debate that continues to surprise me—and I do not think the American people, even many people here in Congress—I do not think they appreciate the degree to which our allies support acknowledging and designating the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization.

As you know, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kenya, they have all already designated the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization.

These are our allies and partners in the Middle East and Africa, and there is a pernicious narrative that doing the same thing they have done—designating the Muslim Brotherhood—will somehow alienate these partners.

Describe how you would work with our allies to counter the Brotherhood's malign activities.

Mr. LOGERFO. Senator Cruz, thank you for that question.

I can say that in a previous capacity in the Bureau of Counterterrorism I led our efforts to designate the IRGC—get designations

of other countries that designate the IRGC as well as Hezbollah and Hamas, particularly in the Western Hemisphere.

That approach—it is pretty intense diplomacy. It requires a lot of legwork. I have talked with our chiefs of mission in the Western Hemisphere across to Australia with respect to that. You saw the news there about 4 or 5 months ago what Australia did with respect to the IRGC.

I would template that, really, and get at the Muslim Brotherhood using that diplomatic approach that worked—that is working, and there is more work to be done—let me be clear—with the IRGC and Hezbollah and Hamas. But I would template that in our efforts with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Senator CRUZ. Terrific. Very helpful. Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Cruz.

Thank you to our witnesses. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to serve, your appearance here today, and before closing I will add any letters of support or otherwise to the committee regarding these matters to be added to the record.

I will also note for the information of members of the committee the record will remain open until close of business tomorrow, December 12, for members to submit questions. If you receive one of those, I would appreciate it if you could get it back quickly. It will help move your confirmation.

With that, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO FRANK WEILAND BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. What priorities would you pursue in the Western Hemisphere?

Answer. If confirmed, priorities will reflect those of the President's National Security Strategy; I will protect Americans and U.S. national security. I will work to degrade the operations of narco-terrorist organizations, disrupt the flows of illicit drugs killing Americans, and counter crime and instability in the region that threatens the United States. I am committed to delivering concrete and tangible results for the American people through responsible foreign assistance and burden-sharing.

Question. China remains the main source of precursors chemicals used by Mexican FTOs and Cartels to manufacture drugs killing thousands of Americans every year. How can INL best support the fight against Chinese involvement in this deadly trade?

Answer. If confirmed, my team and I will work with U.S. Embassy Beijing and with other U.S. Government agencies in support of President Trump's agreement with President Xi that China take significant measures to end the flow of fentanyl to the United States. We will not only ensure China fulfills its bilateral commitments through constructive coordination but also hold China to account in the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to meet its multilateral obligations with the three drug control treaties to which it is a party.

Question. Germany, Britain, The Netherlands, Belgium, and even Sweden have seen a dramatic rise in violence linked to narcotics produced in Colombia. What measures can our European partners take to strengthen counternarcotics cooperation in Latin America?

Answer. If confirmed, I will press European partners to halt policies that have enabled the proliferation of drugs and violence in Europe linked to Western Hemisphere-based narco-terrorist organizations. European countries also must recognize that Europe is the world's largest consumer market for cocaine and do more to address this shared challenge that threatens the safety, security, and prosperity of our

peoples. If confirmed, I will push for European burden sharing to increase targeted security assistance for law enforcement and criminal justice entities combatting drug production and trafficking in Latin America.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO FRANK WEILAND BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Question. Do you commit to briefing the Committee regarding the use of INCLE funds provided to El Salvador, Rwanda and Eswatini as part of third country deportation agreements?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to briefing the Committee regarding INL programing in any country.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO FRANK WEILAND BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

Question. Mr. Weiland, if confirmed, how would you improve coordination with the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Treasury to ensure that INL's overseas programs—particularly in the Western Hemisphere—are aligned with a strategic, whole-of-government strategy against transnational crime and narcotics trafficking?

Answer. If confirmed, I would strengthen strategic, whole-of-government coordination. First, I would institutionalize regular, senior-level planning with interagency partners so we set shared priorities up front. Second, I would intensify collaboration in the Western Hemisphere, so INL's security assistance and criminal deterrence tools reinforce U.S. national security objectives. Finally, I would push for concrete results so INL efforts are not just complementary to other agency efforts, but force multipliers in a coherent, strategic campaign against transnational crime and narcotics trafficking, in line with the National Security Strategy.

Question. What is your vision for how INL can help partner with foreign governments to build financial investigative capacity and anti-corruption institutions, and where do you see the biggest gaps today?

Answer. If confirmed, my vision is to help partners dismantle transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) by targeting their finances, corrupt facilitators, and money laundering. INL can strengthen partners' financial investigative units, improve prosecutorial capacity, and support specialized anti-corruption institutions to take on high-impact cases. The biggest gaps are partners' limited ability to track complex financial flows, shortages of trusted police and judges, and weak or politically constrained anti-corruption bodies—areas where targeted U.S. support will directly degrade TCO/FTOs.

Question. Are there new authorities or international partnerships INL needs to keep pace with the increasing use of encrypted communications, cryptocurrency, and dark-web marketplaces by drug traffickers?

Answer. No. INL's existing authorities are sufficient to keep pace with how traffickers exploit encrypted communications, cryptocurrency, and dark-web marketplaces. If confirmed, I will continue to press foreign partners to do more to combat the evolving methods of drug traffickers.

Question. Last, as part of the Trump administration's ongoing trade negotiations with China, the United States agreed to lower the tariffs on Chinese imports imposed to curb fentanyl flows by 10 percentage points. What would be your role to ensure that Beijing is living up to its commitments to cooperating with us on fentanyl and how will you hold them accountable?

Answer. If confirmed, my team and I will work with U.S. Embassy Beijing and with other U.S. Government agencies in support of President Trump's agreement with President Xi that China take significant measures to end the flow of fentanyl to the United States. We will not only ensure China fulfills its bilateral commitments through constructive coordination but also hold China to account in the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to meet its multilateral obligations with the three drug control treaties to which it is a party.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO FRANK WEILAND BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

Question. Despite repeated requests from the State Department's oversight committees dating back to May, when you were the Senior Bureau Official, the Department continues to withhold information on the use of funds appropriated by Congress regarding the Administration's agreements with third countries to accept U.S. deportees.

Please list the countries with which the Department has entered into agreements with foreign governments, in any form, to provide assistance in exchange—directly or indirectly—for such governments' agreements to accept U.S. deportees.

Answer. While I was senior bureau official for INL, the Department provided INCLE-funded assistance to the Government of El Salvador for its law enforcement and anti-crime needs and the Government of Eswatini for its anti-crime and counternarcotics needs.

Question. How much funding has been allocated, provided, or planned—as applicable—to date for each country?

Answer. As stated during my hearing, the Department provided \$4.76 million in fiscal year 2024 International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funding to the Government of El Salvador for its law enforcement and anti-crime needs.

Also, while I was senior bureau official, the Department provided \$5.1 million in fiscal year 2024 INCLE funding to the Government of Eswatini.

Question. What are the specific purposes associated with such funding, by country?

Answer. The assistance provided to El Salvador was for its law enforcement and anti-crime needs. The assistance provided to Eswatini was for its anti-crime and counternarcotics needs, including but not limited to border security management.

Question. What authority has the Department relied on to withhold notification of this funding to Congress?

Answer. The Department sent Congress a consultation note, dated March 17, 2025, regarding its intent to provide fiscal year 2024 INCLE funds to the Government of El Salvador for its law enforcement and anti-crime needs. Assistance to the Governments of El Salvador and Eswatini was provided consistent with applicable law, including section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the annual appropriations acts.

Question. If you are unwilling or unable to respond to any of the above questions, please explain why in detail.

Answer. I have responded to all of the above questions and, if confirmed, look forward to continuing to work with this Committee.

Question. According to documents filed in court, the Department is requiring the Government of El Salvador to notify the Department in advance of its intent to use funds already transferred from the United States to El Salvador in support of any security forces, in order to enable Leahy vetting.

What was the legal basis relied on to provide the funding for the Government El Salvador prior to conducting Leahy vetting?

Answer. The legally binding terms of the grant require the Government of El Salvador to identify any security force units that receive funding provided through the grant at least 30 days in advance, which will allow the Department to complete Leahy vetting for those units. The Government of El Salvador also agreed not to provide assistance under the grant to any unit identified by the Department of State as prohibited under section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Question. What mechanism is in place to ensure the Government of El Salvador complies with its stated intent to provide advanced notice to the Department before transferring funds to any end users?

Answer. The legally binding terms of the grant signed by the Government of El Salvador require it to identify any security force units that would receive funding at least 30 days in advance so that the Department can conduct necessary vetting. In addition, the Government of El Salvador is required to provide financial reporting delineating how they are using the funds provided.

Question. A key Indonesia INCLE-funded program to counter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as illicit narcotics trafficking by a Sinaloa

affiliate, was terminated in 2025 despite a clear U.S. interest in building partners' maritime security capacity and counternarcotics efforts.

Please provide a list of INCLE Indo-Pacific programs terminated in 2025, with justification for each.

Answer. The Department conducted a thorough assessment to focus resources on initiatives that directly and effectively support U.S. national security objectives and keep America safe. INL continues to dedicate funding for Indo-Pacific countries countering IUU fishing and maritime crime, including providing equipment, training, technical assistance, and limited construction to strengthen maritime law enforcement.

If confirmed, I will continue to support programs that deliver results for the American people, such as the INL-supported vetted units in Thailand that have enabled arrests of fentanyl traffickers and Sinaloa Cartel operatives.

Question. Please provide your assessment of the People's Republic of China's so-called law enforcement capacity-building efforts in Pacific Island countries.

Answer. China's law enforcement efforts in Pacific Island countries are intended to apply CCP coercion and shape regional security. Beijing provides police training and equipment, often embedding Chinese security officials and exporting surveillance-heavy, authoritarian policing models. These efforts increase local dependence on China, facilitate intelligence gathering and elite capture, and make clear China's approach is about advancing CCP interests, expanding its security footprint, and aligning regional governance with Beijing.

Question. Does the PRC exploit poor governance to pursue law enforcement partnerships as part of a broader security strategy?

Answer. Yes, the Chinese Communist Party seeks to exploit every available avenue, including poor governance, to further its strategic goals. If confirmed, I will ensure that INL continues to support our partners in critical regions, including Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Western Hemisphere.

Question. Do you agree that U.S. programs supporting good governance and the rule of law advance U.S. national security interests vis-à-vis the PRC?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support foreign assistance which delivers results for the American people. This includes INL programs that counter Beijing's actions that undermine U.S. national security interests.

Question. Which INL programs, if any, support rule of law and policing capacity in Pacific Islands nations?

Answer. INL currently supports over \$25 million in criminal justice and law enforcement programs in Pacific Island countries. Examples include mobile training teams that augment the capabilities of Pacific Island countries' maritime law enforcement and a port enhancement and customs security program that leverages U.S. expertise and capability to improve border security in the region. The Bureau's International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok also offers criminal justice and policing courses to participants from the Pacific Islands.

Question. Do INCLE funds support any U.S. law enforcement billets at U.S. embassies or consulates dedicated to the Pacific Island countries?

Answer. Yes, INCLE funds currently support a billet for a DHS Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) law enforcement advisor dedicated to Papua New Guinea, based at the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby.

Question. Please provide an overview of U.S. engagement with the government of Vanuatu regarding its policing agreement with the PRC, as well as any engagement with the U.S. allies and partners to coordinate such outreach.

Answer. I understand the Department shared its concern with ni-Vanuatu officials about the risks associated with policing agreements with China. The United States closely coordinates with likeminded partners that have long-standing partnerships with Vanuatu to ensure our outreach and engagement with ni-Vanuatu law enforcement leaders is aligned, mutually reinforcing, and effective.

Question. How does the United States engage with Australia in regards to its Pacific Policing Initiative and to broadly counter the PRC's law enforcement engagement in the Pacific?

Answer. The United States supports likeminded partners' efforts to improve law enforcement capacity in the Pacific Islands, including Australia's Pacific Policing Initiative (PPI). The United States has worked closely with Australia to coordinate and deconflict law enforcement assistance, share information, and ensure maximum

impact to advance our shared strategic goals. Through these efforts, the United States and Australia reinforce a trustworthy and sovereignty-based approach to security and promote Pacific-led solutions.

Question. The Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2026 states that the Venezuelan regime “leads one of the largest cocaine trafficking networks in the world;” it does not mention Venezuela’s role in fentanyl trafficking. The Majors List determination also notes that the PRC is the world’s largest source of precursor chemicals fueling fentanyl production in Mexico and elsewhere. President Trump, however, has suggested that U.S. strikes in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific are targeting fentanyl trafficking.

What is the pathway by which fentanyl and synthetic opioids enter the United States?

Answer. Violent transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) produce fentanyl in Mexico using precursor chemicals primarily sourced from China. TCOs and FTOs operating throughout the Western Hemisphere traffic fentanyl and other deadly illicit drugs into the United States. The President has been clear that he will use all available tools to secure our borders, control key transit routes in the Western Hemisphere, and eradicate narco-terrorist drug cartels.

Question. The Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2026 states that the Venezuelan regime “leads one of the largest cocaine trafficking networks in the world;” it does not mention Venezuela’s role in fentanyl trafficking. The Majors List determination also notes that the PRC is the world’s largest source of precursor chemicals fueling fentanyl production in Mexico and elsewhere. President Trump, however, has suggested that U.S. strikes in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific are targeting fentanyl trafficking.

Where are the majority of fentanyl precursors synthesized into finished fentanyl before entering the United States?

Answer. Mexico is the most significant source, but not the only source, of illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States.

Question. The Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2026 states that the Venezuelan regime “leads one of the largest cocaine trafficking networks in the world;” it does not mention Venezuela’s role in fentanyl trafficking. The Majors List determination also notes that the PRC is the world’s largest source of precursor chemicals fueling fentanyl production in Mexico and elsewhere. President Trump, however, has suggested that U.S. strikes in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific are targeting fentanyl trafficking.

What specific role do Venezuelan criminal groups play, if any, in trafficking synthetic opioids to the United States? What specific groups are involved? When did any such trend emerge, and why wasn’t it mentioned in the Majors List determination?

Answer. The globalization of synthetic drug markets has resulted in the trend of increasing synthetics trafficking worldwide. In contrast to plant-based drugs, synthetic drugs can be produced anywhere at a high profit for much smaller physical quantities. Venezuela-based narco-terrorist organizations such as Cartel de los Soles and Tren de Aragua traffic deadly drugs throughout the Western Hemisphere and into the United States. The Department is constantly monitoring the evolution of drug production and trafficking trends to inform its efforts.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO FRANK WEILAND BY SENATOR TED CRUZ

Question. Describe what great work you assess the PASF has done.

Answer. If confirmed, my top priority for INL’s programming in the West Bank would be to support President Trump’s ‘Peace to Prosperity’ Vision to finally bring peace and stability between Israelis and Palestinians. My understanding is the PASF make an important contribution to keeping the West Bank stable, working with the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) to prevent Hamas and other terrorist organizations from gaining a position of prominence in the West Bank. The ISF have acknowledged PASF’s cooperation to target and apprehend terrorist suspects in the

West Bank, including during Operation Protect the Homeland, in which the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and PASF conducted coordinated raids of the Jenin Refugee Camp, successfully eliminating terrorist threats from the Hamas-affiliated Jenin Brigades. The ISF continues to communicate on threats and coordinate on security operations with PASF. INL is ready to provide a secure briefing if needed.

Question. To what degree do you assess that PASF forces have been infiltrated by Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

Answer. I am aware former PASF members have allegedly conducted “lone wolf” attacks against Israeli security forces and civilians. These reports are disturbing and concerning. If confirmed, I commit to reviewing any and all evidence of terrorist infiltration of PASF. INL, in coordination with the Israeli Ministry of Defense’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and the PA, engage in extensive vetting of PASF U.S. assistance recipients to identify potential terrorist threats and reduce this risk. However, any verified evidence of terrorist infiltration of PASF would be completely unacceptable and result in immediate programmatic implications.

Question. Do you assess the U.S. should continue assisting the PASF if they have been significantly infiltrated by Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

Answer. The Department closely monitors the security assistance it provides the PASF, through both vetting and end use monitoring, to ensure that none of the recipients have a known or suspected terrorist connection. If confirmed, I commit to reviewing any and all evidence of terrorist infiltration of PASF. I am aware of such allegations regarding “lone wolf” attacks by former PASF members, which I find highly concerning and disturbing. Any verified evidence of terrorist infiltration of PASF would be completely unacceptable and result in immediate programmatic implications.

Question. Assess the effectiveness of the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC).

Answer. INL works with the USSC to implement security sector programs that advance Administration security priorities for Israel and the West Bank. If confirmed, my top priority for INL’s programming in the West Bank would be to support President Trump’s ‘Peace to Prosperity’ Vision to finally bring peace and stability between Israelis and Palestinians. I defer to the Secretary of State, to whom the USSC reports, and to Embassy Jerusalem on personnel-related issues, such as assessing overall effectiveness of the office.

Question. Do you support maintaining a U.S. military three-star general as the USSC?

Answer. INL works with the USSC and his team to implement security sector programs that advance Administration security priorities for Israel and the West Bank. I defer to the Secretary of State, to whom the USSC reports, and Embassy Jerusalem and the Department of War on personnel-related decisions for USSC.

The United States provides assistance to parts of the Lebanese government, including the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF), including through INCLE funds.

Question. Assess the effectiveness of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Answer. INL supports the ISF while the Department of State’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM) supports the LAF and their operations. As U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa and U.S. Special Envoy to Syria Tom Barrack have clearly stated, the LAF must continue to enforce the Cessation of Hostilities and destroy any remaining Hizballah infrastructure. I understand the LAF have been a reliable partner in protecting U.S. personnel and facilities. INL support to the ISF helps reinforce the LAF and maintain internal security as the LAF implement the Cessation of Hostilities arrangements with Israel. The LAF have made strides in dismantling and destroying Hizballah weapons, but now the Lebanese government, including the ISF, must fulfill its responsibilities to disarm Hizballah and establish Lebanese state sovereignty over all its land.

Question. To what degree do you assess that LAF forces have been infiltrated by Hezbollah or other terrorist organizations?

Answer. INL supports the ISF while the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs supports the LAF and their operations. I understand that the Department transmitted a classified report to Congress on this topic. If confirmed, I commit to reviewing any and all allegations of Hizballah infiltration of the ISF. Any potential verified inci-

dents of terrorist infiltration of the ISF would be highly disturbing and completely unacceptable, and would result in immediate programmatic implications.

Question. Do you assess the U.S. should continue assisting the LAF if they have been significantly infiltrated by Hezbollah or other terrorist organizations?

Answer. INL supports the ISF while PM supports the LAF and their operations. The Department closely monitors the assistance it provides the ISF, through both vetting and end use monitoring. If confirmed, I will ensure any assistance provided by INL is consistent with the requirement in section 7041(f) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act. If confirmed, I commit to reviewing any and all allegations of Hizballah infiltration of the ISF. Any potential verified incidents of terrorist infiltration of the ISF would be highly disturbing and completely unacceptable, and would result in immediate programmatic implications.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JENNIFER WICKS MCNAMARA BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. The U.S. and Vietnam signed a 123 agreement in 2014, and Vietnam has made nuclear power a strategic national priority in 2025. Due to a variety of factors, our nuclear cooperation has stalled in the last decade, but there is a strong regulatory foundation for increasing cooperation and new political will to do so. Where do you see opportunities for short and medium-term cooperation with Vietnam on civil nuclear energy?

Answer. Energy cooperation is an important part of the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The U.S.-Vietnam Energy Security Dialogue provides an opportunity to review and expand the bilateral partnership over Vietnam's energy security. With Vietnam's renewed focus on nuclear power and the strong regulatory framework established by our 123 Agreement, there are several promising areas for short- and medium-term cooperation. In the near term, we can support Vietnam in building regulatory capacity, providing technical assistance, and developing its nuclear workforce through training and academic exchanges. In the medium term, we can explore cooperation on new technologies such as small modular reactors and deepen cooperation on nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation.

Question. Vietnam continues to maintain close relations with China, arguably its most important trade and investment partner. At the same time, tensions in the South China Sea have strained the Sino-Vietnamese relationship. Where do you see opportunities for boosting bilateral and multilateral cooperation on maritime security in the South China Sea with Vietnam?

Answer. Although Vietnam and China share deep economic and symbolic ideological ties, Vietnam prides itself on independence and strategic autonomy in its foreign policy. Vietnam considers the South China Sea its leading national security concern and Hanoi is one of the region's most prominent critics of Beijing's unlawful and expansive maritime claims and its illegal activities. There are clear opportunities to boost cooperation with Vietnam on maritime security in the South China Sea, one of the world's most vital lanes of commerce.

Bilaterally, the United States can expand joint training, information sharing, and equipment sales and donations with Vietnam's maritime forces to enhance maritime domain awareness and maritime law enforcement skills and presence.

Multilaterally, and in coordination with like-minded partners, we can work together through ASEAN and regional forums to promote transparency, joint or coordinated exercises, and adherence to international law. These efforts will strengthen Vietnam's maritime capabilities to ensure Vietnam can contribute to efforts to prevent any one country from dominating or controlling the South China Sea.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with Vietnamese counterparts to stop Vietnam's support for Russia's war in Ukraine?

Answer. If confirmed, I will engage Vietnamese counterparts directly and candidly to underscore the importance of ending the Russia-Ukraine war through diplomacy. The United States is committed to maintaining measures to encourage Russia's commitment to the peace process. I will encourage Vietnam to align with the United States' recent sanctions actions in the Russian energy sector, which demonstrate our commitment to increase pressure on Russia to remain engaged in good faith peace efforts. Following the launch of Russia's war with Ukraine and the imposition of U.S. and international sanctions, Vietnam announced its intention to reduce reli-

ance on Russian equipment and is actively seeking new partners, as well as updated equipment and new technology, opening up new opportunities for U.S.-Vietnam defense trade.

Question. Despite the government's increased efforts, in the State Department's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report Vietnam remained on Tier 2 due to decreased services provided to trafficking victims, and lack of proactive reporting, screening, and other services for potential victims of labor and sex trafficking returning from scam centers. Despite inspections of at-risk establishments, the government also did not formally identify any foreign national trafficking victims. If confirmed, what concrete steps would you take to help Vietnam operationalize the prioritized recommendations contained in the Trafficking in Persons Report?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work closely with Vietnamese authorities to implement the recommendations in the Trafficking in Persons Report. This includes supporting training for officials on victim identification and referral, encouraging proactive screening and reporting, and promoting stronger partnerships with NGOs to expand services for trafficking victims. I will also advocate for increased resources for victim support, as mandated under Vietnam's new counter trafficking in persons law that went into effect July 1, 2025, and urge the government to improve data collection and transparency, especially regarding any foreign national victims.

Question. In December 2023, the State Department placed Vietnam on the Special Watch List for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom. The State Department's 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom in Vietnam highlights reports of government officials physically abusing and intimidating members of religious and ethnic minority groups, harassment of unregistered religious groups, and arbitrary detention of worshipers. 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. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Office of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom to advocate for the protection of religious rights and religious freedom. While Vietnam has made progress over the past several decades, the government has continued to take actions that undermine religious freedom for members of some communities. I will urge the Vietnamese government to respect the rights of all individuals to practice their faith freely and take meaningful steps to improve religious freedom in the country. I will also engage civil society and faith leaders to promote dialogue and encourage reforms that advance religious freedom and respect for human rights. If confirmed, I will support the deployment of the full range of these tools.

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

Answer. If confirmed, I will prioritize open dialogue with Vietnamese officials to encourage legal reforms and policy changes that protect religious freedom. Additionally, I will support training for local authorities on international religious freedom standards, promote engagement with civil society and faith leaders, and advocate for the recognition of religious groups.

Question. The State Department's 2024 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Vietnam noted that "significant human rights abuses included credible reports of arbitrary or unlawful killings; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and punishment; involuntary or coercive medical or psychological practices; arbitrary arrest or detention; transnational repression against individuals in another country; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including unjustified arrests or prosecutions of journalists and censorship; restrictions of religious freedom; and systematic restrictions on workers' freedom of association." If confirmed, how will you lead your embassy staff to engage with policymakers and civil society to improve the concerning human rights situation in Vietnam?

Answer. If confirmed, I will lead embassy staff in actively engaging both Vietnamese policymakers and civil society on human rights concerns, including seeking progress on freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion or belief. The United States holds an annual Human Rights Dialogue with Vietnam wherein we discuss these issues and raise specific cases of concern. I will continue the strong engagement with human rights organizations in the United States, including the Vietnamese-American community, as well as with local free speech advocates, religious leaders, and the families of those detained for exercising their fundamental freedoms, as previous Ambassadors have done.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you would work with IO and USUN colleagues in capital to promote American and likeminded initiatives in the U.N. system, including on technical matters at specialized bodies.

Answer. If confirmed, I will maintain close coordination with IO and USUN colleagues to advance American and likeminded initiatives within the U.N. system. I will ensure regular communication to align priorities, share information, and develop unified strategies, especially on technical issues at specialized bodies where Vietnam is seeking to expand its own voice. By leveraging our collective expertise and building coalitions with partners, I will work to promote U.S. values, support effective multilateral action, and achieve concrete results on key international challenges.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you will engage in capital to win support for key U.S. priorities at the U.N.

Answer. If confirmed, I will maintain close coordination with colleagues in Washington to ensure our efforts in Vietnam support key U.S. priorities at the U.N. I will provide timely reporting on Vietnam's positions and advocate for alignment on shared objectives.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JENNIFER WICKS MCNAMARA BY SENATOR JOHN CORNYN

Le Dinh Luong

Multiple constituents of mine in Texas, including representatives of Viet Tan, have raised urgent concerns regarding the continued imprisonment and deteriorating medical condition of Vietnamese prisoner of conscience Le Dinh Luong, who has been serving a 20-year sentence for peaceful civic activism. They report that Mr. Luong has repeatedly been denied adequate medical care and meaningful access to his family. Given the announcement of the Le Dinh Luong human-rights award on December 10, these issues have taken on renewed visibility.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to (1) engaging directly with the Vietnamese government to request that Mr. Luong receive independent medical evaluation and treatment; (2) advocating for improved prison conditions and regular family visitation; and (3) raising his case in your diplomatic engagements as part of the United States' broader effort to support prisoners of conscience in Vietnam and to seek Mr. Luong's release from prison?

Answer. If confirmed, yes, I commit to engaging directly with the Vietnamese government on the case of Mr. Luong and other prisoners of conscience. I commit to having candid conversations with the Vietnamese government on human rights concerns, including to urge progress on freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion or belief.

Question. Please describe the specific tools and channels you would use in Hanoi to pursue these objectives.

Answer. As I understand it at this time, possible tools and channels include diplomatic notes or letters to the government, direct discussions on these issues in meetings with government officials, coordinated engagement with international partners, and sanctions, when applicable and warranted.

Extradition and Welfare of Y Quynh Bdap

Constituents have also raised serious concerns regarding the recent extradition of Montagnard and Ede Indigenous human rights activist Y Quynh Bdap from Thailand to Vietnam. Human-rights organizations report that his current location, legal status, and physical condition remain unknown, creating fears about potential mistreatment or coercive interrogation. Families and advocates have asked this office to press for basic transparency and assurances of his well-being.

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to seeking immediate clarification from the Vietnamese government on Mr. Bdap's whereabouts, medical condition, and access to legal counsel?

Answer. If confirmed, yes, I commit to seeking immediate clarification from the Vietnamese government on the case of Mr. Bdap.

Question. Additionally, what steps would you take—bilaterally or in coordination with international partners—to ensure that Mr. Bdap receives humane treatment

consistent with international norms and that the United States receives timely updates on his case?

Answer. As I understand it at this time, possible steps would include a diplomatic note or letter to the government and/or direct discussion with relevant authorities on the case. I would ensure that these steps are coordinated with our international partners.

Vietnam's Latest Act of Censorship

Meta recently admitted to restricting access to 17 Facebook pages in Vietnam at the behest of the Vietnamese government. Many of these pages are operated by American citizens. U.S. companies should be champions of free expression and democratic values, not facilitators of censorship. American companies should not be subject to coercion by foreign governments.

Question. As Ambassador, how will you engage with the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that U.S. firms operating in Vietnam can operate without being forced to suppress independent voices?

Answer. If confirmed, I will engage with Vietnamese authorities in candid conversations to express our human rights concerns, including on censorship and freedom of expression and their possible impact on U.S. firms operating in Vietnam. I will stay in close contact with American companies in Vietnam to understand their concerns and determine where U.S. Government engagement can be most helpful.

Question. Will you commit to publicly pressing the Vietnamese government to respect freedom of speech and access to information on social media?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to engaging with the Vietnamese government, publicly and privately, on respecting freedom of speech and access to information online and offline.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO ERIC MEYER BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. How would China's increased presence in Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean affect U.S. strategic interests?

Answer. Sri Lanka sits astride some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, with two-thirds of the world's seaborne crude oil regularly transiting its waters. China is building up its "blue water" force and has gained operational control of Sri Lankan Hambantota Port, laying a long-term foundation for China's economic influence and an expanded regional military presence.

Our security cooperation with Sri Lanka supports its military and law enforcement in order to counter shared security threats and help maintain a free and open Indian Ocean region. If confirmed, I will continue our strong security partnership with Sri Lanka and encourage the government to continue to protect its sovereignty and further expand its regional security leadership through maritime security operations. I will also encourage Sri Lanka to continue contributing funds to upgrade and modernize its defense capabilities.

Question. If confirmed, what would be your priorities for addressing malign Chinese influence with Sri Lankan counterparts?

Answer. Over the past decade, China has expanded its influence in Sri Lanka through coercive diplomatic and economic means. Sri Lanka also experienced an economic crisis in 2022 that laid bare potential vulnerabilities. Continued and demonstrable U.S. security cooperation and proactive economic engagement will be critical to supporting Sri Lanka's sovereignty and countering such malign Chinese influence. If confirmed, I will encourage the government of Sri Lanka to take steps to promote its economic stability, reinforce its sovereignty, especially in the port and maritime sectors, and ensure careful scrutiny of China's opaque investment.

Question. The State Department's 2024 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Sri Lanka noted that "significant human rights issues included credible reports of arbitrary or unlawful killings; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; involuntary or coercive medical or psychological practices; arbitrary arrest or detention; transnational repression against individuals in another country; and serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including violence and threats of violence against journalists, unjustified arrests of journalists, and censorship." If confirmed, how will you lead your embassy staff to

engage with policymakers and civil society to improve the concerning human rights situation in Sri Lanka?

Answer. If confirmed, I will hear the concerns of all Sri Lankans, including those from affected minority communities, and the issues they face. I will also continue to promote accountability for human rights abuses, including through reviewing all by applicable accountability tools such as 7031(c) and Global Magnitsky Act.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you would work with IO and USUN colleagues in capital to promote American and likeminded initiatives in the U.N. system, including on technical matters at specialized bodies.

Answer. If confirmed, my goal will be to maximize U.S. influence and effectiveness in international organizations by encouraging Sri Lanka to support the U.S. positions and identify areas of increased cooperation, such as in counterterrorism, cyber-security, and non-proliferation.

I will work closely with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and relevant bureaus in Washington to ensure our messaging is coordinated and responsive to evolving priorities.

Question. If confirmed, please describe how you will engage in capital to win support for key U.S. priorities at the U.N.

Answer. The United States and Sri Lanka share our highest voting coincidence at the U.N. on issues regarding technology and cyber as well as weapons and disarmament. If confirmed, I will build upon this foundation to advance U.S. priorities in international organizations through productive relationships with Sri Lankan government officials and emphasizing areas of mutual interest, such as peace-keeping and maritime security.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO GREGORY LOGERFO BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. My bill, the Countering Wrongful Detention Act of 2025, along with Senator Coons, was included in the conferenced NDAA bill and made into an executive order earlier this year by President Trump. There is significant and bipartisan support for calling countries like Afghanistan what they are: state sponsors of wrongful detention. How do you prioritize the release of American citizens while ensuring counterterrorism concerns are met?

Answer. Hostage-taking and wrongful detention of Americans by foreign states are deliberate acts of coercion that devastate American families and directly threaten U.S. national security. The Administration maintains an unwavering commitment to securing the release of Americans while safeguarding counterterrorism priorities. The Bureau of Counterterrorism works closely with the Intelligence Community and the office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs to support the return of Americans wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, including in Afghanistan. The Bureau of Counterterrorism coordinates within the interagency to ensure the full range of U.S. Government resources are available to support the return of those held hostage or wrongfully detained, and to provide policy advice as needed. If confirmed, I will continue to work with our interagency and Department partners to ensure we bring hostages and wrongfully detained Americans home.

Question. Our country was hit with an absolute tragedy on the eve of Thanksgiving when a Biden asylee from Afghanistan committed a terrorist attack here in Washington DC. What specific tools will you have in the counterterrorism bureau to prevent something like this from happening again?

Answer. The heinous and tragic attack against members of our National Guard underscores the responsibility of the Federal Government to strengthen the tools and coordination used to prevent future acts of terrorism. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Bureau of Counterterrorism performs its statutory coordinating role within the interagency, and with our foreign partners to disrupt terrorist travel before it can threaten the homeland. This would include directing the Bureau of Counterterrorism's coordination of interagency watchlisting and screening, including through targeted, time-bound foreign assistance as needed to advance the Administration's America First foreign policy. This could include training and equipment to enhance properly vetted foreign law enforcement's ability to screen travelers and share information, including with the United States.

Question. Do you agree we should do everything possible to ensure US taxpayer dollars do not fall into the hands of terrorists, including through the U.N. and humanitarian NGOs?

Answer. I agree we should do everything possible to ensure US taxpayer dollars do not fall into the hands of terrorists, including through the U.N. and humanitarian NGOs. If confirmed, I will ensure our foreign assistance resources are spent wisely on effective programs to keep America safe, and that every program is thoroughly reviewed and program participants are properly vetted, consistent with the Leahy law and other risk-related regulations, throughout implementation, and properly briefed to Congress.

Question. This week marks the 1-year anniversary of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria and the beginning of a new future for the Syrian people. From the beginning, counterterrorism has been a top priority for the United States in engagements with the new government. How would you grade the new Syrian government on their counterterrorism cooperation?

Answer. The United States is working with the new Syrian government led by President al-Sharaa to locate missing Americans, fulfill Syria's commitment on countering terrorism and narcotics, eliminate any remnants of chemical weapons, and promote regional security and stability as well as an inclusive political process. For example, on November 24, CENTCOM and the Syrian Ministry of Interior located and destroyed more than 15 sites containing ISIS weapons caches in southern Syria. The Syrian government has demonstrated a capability and willingness to support U.S. counter-ISIS operations and recently joined the coalition to defeat ISIS. However, there is clearly more work to be done, as Secretary Rubio and his Syrian counterpart discussed following the tragic December 13 attack on our servicemen in Syria. If confirmed, I commit to working with the new Syrian government to bolster their counterterrorism efforts against shared threats, and protect American citizens and interests.

Question. What are the next steps for counterterrorism in Syria to ensure ISIS can never threaten the American homeland?

Answer. If confirmed, I will lead the Bureau of Counterterrorism and coordinate with the interagency, regional, and European partners to prevent an ISIS resurgence in Syria that would threaten the United States or our partners. I will actively coordinate with our regional partners to assess the Syrian government's counterterrorism capabilities and work with the Syrian government and regional partners to prevent terrorist organizations, including the Iranian regime and its proxies, from planning or executing attacks on the homeland, American citizens, or our interests abroad.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO GREGORY LOGERFO BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

Question. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, I am curious what recommendations you have for Congress to more effectively tackle terror threats both globally and regionally in North Africa and the Middle East. What are some things you think we need to be taking a closer look at?

Answer. If confirmed, I will direct the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance burden-shifting with regional partners, along with more well-resourced European partners, to confront terrorist threats in North Africa and the Middle East that threaten the United States and our interests. Although we share risk, the threat to regional partners is more acute. Therefore, it is only reasonable that we ask our partners to assume their share of the burden. In addition, if confirmed I will direct the Bureau of Counterterrorism to consult with Congress on appropriately targeted, time-bound foreign assistance that directly supports making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. The Trump administration, under the leadership of Secretary Rubio, has aggressively gone after the narcoterrorist threat, including the designation of 14 cartels and gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Mr. LoGerfo, what is your interpretation of the Trump administration's counterterrorism priorities?

Answer. The Trump Administration is committed to preventing a major terrorist attack on the U.S. homeland and has advanced safety and security at home and abroad by implementing Peace through Strength. The Administration is focused on

destroying and disrupting terrorist networks, including narcoterrorists; holding state sponsors accountable; securing our borders; and degrading the capacity of terrorist groups threatening the United States. If confirmed, I will lead the Bureau of Counterterrorism with respect to interagency coordination on the proper designations of Foreign Terrorist Organizations in support of Administration policies.

Question. The Trump administration, under the leadership of Secretary Rubio, has aggressively gone after the narcoterrorist threat, including the designation of 14 cartels and gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. If confirmed, how will you balance the CT focus on both Western Hemisphere actors and the threats stemming from Africa and the Middle East?

Answer. If confirmed, I will sustain the Bureau's steadfast focus on countering terrorists who seek to attack the U.S. homeland and our interests overseas. I will lead the Bureau of Counterterrorism, per its statutory role, to coordinate with U.S. interagency and regional partners to counter the threats posed by al-Qa'ida and ISIS affiliates, as well as Iran and its proxies in Africa and the Middle East. If confirmed, I would lead a balanced and targeted approach to address global terrorist threats across regions, whether narcoterrorists or jihadists, and ensure that our counterterrorism partners assume their appropriate share of the burdens associated with countering terrorism globally.

Question. The Trump administration, under the leadership of Secretary Rubio, has aggressively gone after the narcoterrorist threat, including the designation of 14 cartels and gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. In your view, how can the State Department improve its vetting policies to adequately address terror risks posed by foreign nationals coming to the United States?

Answer. If confirmed, I will direct the Bureau of Counterterrorism to strengthen information sharing on known and suspected terrorists and, in accordance with the Bureau's statutory role, coordinate with the interagency and our foreign allies to disrupt terrorist travel before it can threaten the Homeland. If confirmed, I will direct the Bureau of Counterterrorism's coordination of interagency watchlisting and screening, including through targeted and time-bound foreign assistance to advance the Administration's America First foreign policy. This could include training and equipment to enhance properly vetted foreign law enforcement's ability to screen and share information, and to report information to the United States.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO GREGORY LOGERFO BY SENATOR TED CRUZ

Question. Do you support the Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act of 2025?

Answer. The Muslim Brotherhood poses a persistent threat to U.S. national security interests. The Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act of 2025 reflects our shared interest in combatting this threat. If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your staff on bolstering American security against this threat.

Question. Please describe your understanding of the Trump administration's strategy to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, either pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act or Executive Order 13224.

Answer. President Trump's Executive Order 14362 identified certain chapters and subdivisions of the Muslim Brotherhood as a threat to American security and national security interests, and directed a process to assess which chapters or other subdivisions of the Muslim Brotherhood, including affiliated charities and organizations, shall be considered for designation as Foreign Terrorist Organizations under INA section 219 or Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224. If confirmed, consistent with the Executive Order and the statutory role of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, I will direct the Bureau and work with my interagency counterparts, including at the Department of the Treasury, to submit the required joint report concerning the designation of any Muslim Brotherhood chapters or other subdivisions, as was done with the Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt chapters. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your team to confront this threat.

Question. Do you assess that the Senate has the authority to mandate that Article 2 officials impose and enforce terrorism designations?

Answer. I respect Congress' Article I legislative authority, including with respect to Foreign Terrorist Organization designations and related statutes. If confirmed, I will follow all laws, including with respect to terrorist designations.

Question. Can you commit that, if confirmed, you will work with members of this Committee to impose and enforce anti-terrorism measures against the Muslim Brotherhood and its branches?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Members and staff of this Committee, as well as with executive branch officials and regional partners, to take all necessary and appropriate anti-terrorism measures against Muslim Brotherhood chapters and subdivisions to confront pernicious threats to U.S. national security.

RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO GREGORY LOGERFO BY SENATOR JOHN CORNYN

Question. How are you ensuring the Intelligence Community is supporting the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs in its mission to bring wrongfully detained Americans home, specifically in Afghanistan?

Answer. The Bureau of Counterterrorism works closely with the Intelligence Community and the office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs to support the return of Americans wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, including in Afghanistan. The Bureau of Counterterrorism, per its statutory role, works within the interagency to ensure the full range of U.S. Government resources are available to support the return of those held hostage or wrongfully detained, and to provide policy advice as needed. If confirmed, I will continue to work with our interagency and Department partners to ensure we bring hostages and wrongfully detained Americans home.

