

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for
Nomination Hearing of James Kunder
September 12, 2006**

The Foreign Relations Committee meets to consider the nomination of James Kunder to be the new Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. In this position, Mr. Kunder would assist Ambassador Randall Tobias, the Administrator of USAID, in directing the operations of the agency and formulating and executing U.S. foreign assistance programs. In addition, he would assist the Administrator in the supervision of all personnel of the Agency in the United States and overseas.

It is a pleasure to again welcome Mr. Kunder to the Committee. Mr. Kunder has extensive government and private sector experience in international development and humanitarian assistance. He is currently the agency's Acting Deputy Administrator. In addition, he continues to serve as the Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East, a position he has held for the past two years. In this capacity, Mr. Kunder has been overseeing some of USAID's largest and most important projects, including the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan and the massive relief effort to countries in South Asia ravaged by the tsunami of December 2004.

Previously, Mr. Kunder served USAID as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East; Director for Relief and Reconstruction in Afghanistan; Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance; and Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for External Affairs. He also has served as Vice President for Program Development at Save the Children Federation.

Mr. Kunder was among the experts who participated in the Foreign Relations Committee's Policy Advisory Group in 2003 and 2004. His views, along with those of other members of the group, enriched both Committee discussions and eventually legislation on the subject. Among other steps, our legislation recommended the creation of an office in the State Department to prepare for and oversee post-conflict reconstruction activities. The Secretary of State ultimately established such an office within the State Department. I look forward to hearing Mr. Kunder's views on how USAID and the State Department can coordinate their efforts to strengthen our government's rapid response.

USAID is extremely important to American foreign policy. It is the primary agency that implements our humanitarian and development programs. USAID is helping to rebuild Afghanistan and Iraq, and it will be playing a critical role in Lebanon. The agency also is tasked with fighting diseases from HIV/AIDS to avian flu.

The new Deputy Administrator at USAID will arrive at a critical time for the agency and for U.S. foreign assistance. Just a few months ago, this Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Ambassador Randall Tobias to be the Administrator of USAID and the first Director of Foreign Assistance. In this new role, Ambassador Tobias is charged with managing and coordinating all Department of State and USAID foreign assistance programs. It is our hope

that this new framework will improve the overall effectiveness of our foreign assistance. Nevertheless, the additional demands that this new role is placing on Administrator Tobias require that the Deputy Administrator at USAID be well-versed in the agency's daily operations and capable of managing them when necessary.

I congratulate Mr. Kunder on his nomination and look forward to our discussion. If you are summarizing a statement, the text of your entire presentation will be included in the hearing record. Also, please introduce family and friends that may have accompanied you on this important occasion.

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