

NOMINATIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in Room SD-106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Robert Menendez presiding.

Present: Senators Menendez [presiding], Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Booker, Van Hollen, Risch, Rubio, Johnson, Romney, Portman, and Young.

Also Present: Senators Schumer and Rosen.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

We are here today to consider nominations for four important positions: Dr. Deborah Lipstadt to be the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Ambassador Laura Dogu to be Ambassador to Honduras, Assemblyman Nickolas Perry to be Ambassador to Jamaica, and Ms. Randi Charno Levine to be the Ambassador to Portugal.

Congratulations to each of you. We appreciate your willingness and the sacrifices that are made not just by you but your families, who are part of this process, to serve our country in this capacity.

I know that the majority leader is on his way to introduce some of our nominees. But I see that Senator Rosen is with us. I will recognize her at this time to introduce Dr. Lipstadt.

STATEMENT OF HON. JACKY ROSEN, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEVADA

Senator ROSEN. Chairman Menendez, thank you, and Ranking Member Risch. I really want to thank you both for holding this important hearing on the nomination of Deborah Lipstadt to serve our nation as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, which last year was elevated by Congress to rank of Ambassador.

Dr. Lipstadt has devoted her life to fighting back against anti-semitism and Holocaust denial. She is a renowned scholar of Holocaust studies at Emory University, has published multiple books on antisemitism and Holocaust denialism, and who famously defeated a libel suit brought against her by Holocaust denier David Irving.

She is, arguably, the nation's foremost expert on antisemitism and Holocaust denial with over four decades of groundbreaking

scholarship, and her nomination comes at a critical time in the fight against antisemitism.

In the United States and across the globe, we are witnessing a significant rise in antisemitism, violent extremism, and Holocaust distortion and denial.

From swastikas spray painted in public synagogues—in public to synagogues being attacked, we have recently seen heinous acts of harassment and violence targeting Jewish communities.

We are also seeing an alarming rise in Holocaust distortion and denial worldwide. More and more people are vocally questioning, trivializing, or outright denying the atrocities of the Holocaust, eroding the truth of one of the worst chapters of human history and dishonoring the memory—dishonoring the memory—of the 6 million Jews who were murdered.

As co-founder of the Senate’s bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, my mission has been to confront this head on. Alongside my colleague, Senator James Lankford, we brought Senators from both sides of the aisle together to address this growing crisis.

With dedicated leadership in place at the State Department, we can put a stop to these disturbing trends. I am honored to introduce to you today an exceptionally qualified nominee to serve as Special Envoy and take on global antisemitism head on no matter where it rears its ugly head.

And while Senator Lankford could not be with us in person today, he submitted a statement for the record in strong support of Dr. Lipstadt’s swift confirmation, because we both recognize the urgent need for American leadership in combating global antisemitism.

Dr. Deborah Lipstadt has an extensive record of combating and calling out antisemitism no matter which side of the political spectrum it comes from, and with this tough but fair approach, she will serve a vital role in our nation’s critical work to protect Jewish communities and combat antisemitism across the globe.

We cannot waste any more time. I urge my colleagues to advance her nomination so she can lead the State Department’s efforts to improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities, promote accurate Holocaust education, and ensure foreign leaders condemn anti-Semitic discourse.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Rosen. And I know that you have a busy schedule so whenever you feel it appropriate you are welcome to leave.

Senator Schumer is here, and I know he wants to speak and introduce both Mr. Perry and Ms. Levine.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW YORK**

Senator SCHUMER. Thank you very much to Chairman Menendez, to Ranking Member Risch, and all the members of the SFRC, this great committee, for the opportunity to introduce two really outstanding nominees this morning.

It is my honor to introduce a proud New Yorker, a dear and long-time friend—we have known each other for 30 years—and fellow

Brooklynite, Nick Perry, to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica.

I worked hard to make sure President Biden named Nick for this post and I am glad to finally be here introducing him to the committee. He is here with his wife, Joyce, his son, Nickolas, and he has one granddaughter, Justine Skye, who is a famous recording artist, so she could not be here today, but made good. Local girl made good.

Now, whether I am back home in Brooklyn—whenever I am back home in Brooklyn, particularly at the West Indian Day Parade, I ask folks, what is the biggest island in the Caribbean? I tell them it is a trick question.

Some people say Haiti. Some people say Cuba. Some people say Barbados. I say no, it is Brooklyn. We have more Caribbean immigrants than anywhere else, and it is a great and wonderful, hard-working community, climbing up that ladder and being part of the American dream.

And this makes Nick Perry not only an outstanding nominee because of his qualifications and who he is, but an exceedingly fitting nominee to serve as our next Ambassador to Jamaica.

He is a native of the island, and Nick Perry would be the first ever—the first ever Jamaican-born person to serve as its American Ambassador. It is, truly, an important milestone, one that, I would add, is long overdue.

Back home, Assemblyman Perry is known—is a well-known face in the community. He has a knack for doing politics the old-fashioned way, shaking hands, showing up at every event, and just listening to people from everyday life. Nick is an immigrant, he is a veteran, and a longtime public servant, and he represents the best of what America is all about.

I am certain that Nick will be a wonderful Ambassador to Jamaica, and one other thing I would note—he has a beautiful tenor voice, sort of like you, Mr. Chairman, and he is often asked to sing the “Star-Spangled Banner” at a multitude of events throughout Brooklyn and throughout New York.

It is also my great honor to introduce another great New Yorker, Randi Charno Levine, nominated by President Biden to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. I was proud to urge the Biden administration to name Randi for this important post and, when confirmed, she will become only the second woman to head our diplomatic mission in Portugal.

I have known Randi and her husband, Jeff, who is right there, for over 30 years, and Randi in particular has been one of our city’s top philanthropic forces for decades. Few have advocated as passionately and tirelessly for New Yorkers as Randi and Jeff have, and I am particularly grateful for the work they have done in support of New York’s Jewish communities.

It has been a blessing to see firsthand their leadership, their generosity, and most of all, their desire to bring people together.

As chair of the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy here in Washington, Randi has been one of our country’s best leaders, promoting cultural exchanges between students, diplomats, and businesses.

In other words, she has already advanced in a different context the work any good ambassador must accomplish, encouraging understanding between our country and those across the world.

And as trustee for the New Museum in New York, Randi has also worked with established and emerging artists from Peru to Italy to Portugal and more, lifting up the voices of women artists and bringing their work to American audiences.

I have every bit of confidence that Randi will represent the U.S. with distinction to Ambassador to Portugal, and I thank the President for acting on my recommendation.

And one more point, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your indulgence. Though I am not introducing her this morning—I know that Senator Rosen has—I want to recognize the nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt to serve as the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

I am glad she is getting her confirmation hearing today. The malicious poison of antisemitism must be confronted whenever it rears its ugly head.

Sadly, we have seen a spike of antisemitism here at home and around the world, making this post at the State Department all the more urgent.

As one of the nation's top scholars on the Holocaust and on modern-day antisemitism, Dr. Lipstadt ought to be confirmed as soon as possible. We just saw a few more anti-Semitic incidents in Williamsburg yesterday in New York.

I want to thank the committee for holding this hearing and I want to congratulate her on her nomination.

Finally, I do not want to leave out since I have spoken on three of the nominees—I would like to welcome the fourth, Laura Dogu, the Ambassador to Honduras, a distinguished member of our Foreign Service, and I thank her as well for her service.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, for your allowing me to welcome these guests.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Leader, for those glowing introductions and I know that you have an incredibly busy schedule so you are welcome to depart when it feels appropriate.

Let me turn to the nominees.

Let me welcome world-renowned scholar Deborah Lipstadt to be considered as the first Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism with the rank of Ambassador.

I am truly disappointed it took this long to schedule your hearing, and I look forward to your swift confirmation.

I have received a number of letters in support of Dr. Lipstadt's nomination, and I would ask unanimous consent that they be entered into the record.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to is located at the end of this transcript.]

The CHAIRMAN. Antisemitism is rising across the world. We see it inscribed in textbooks for children across the Middle East, violent attacks on Jewish communities.

Antisemitism is rising across the world—the defacing of religious buildings and graveyards. Every year more Jewish people around

the world, from Europe to Latin America to in my home state of New Jersey, are increasingly fearful for their safety.

History has taught us that rising antisemitism goes hand in glove with authoritarianism, racism, and oppression, and I believe you will be a huge asset to the department as it works to combat this centuries-old scourge.

I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Laura Dogu, our nominee for Honduras. Since 2014, the United States has intensified its engagement with Honduras, along with its neighbors, El Salvador, and Guatemala, to address the security challenges, low levels of democratic governance, and high levels of extreme poverty that drive irregular migration.

During this period, I have repeatedly urged that we use our foreign assistance to make significant investments in the rule of law in Central America and increase accountability for elites involved in criminal activity. I welcome the Biden administration's focus on these issues.

Given repeated natural disasters, endemic levels of criminal violence in Honduran society, and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, I have also led calls for the administration to re-designate Honduras for temporary protective status.

I look forward to hearing our nominee's assessment of country conditions in Honduras and how the United States can best address ongoing governance challenges.

I am also pleased to welcome New York Assemblyman Nick Perry, the President's nominee to be our next ambassador to Jamaica. Jamaica is a key U.S. political and security partner in the Caribbean as well as in the Organization of American States.

We know that COVID-19 has hit Jamaica and its economy especially hard, and I look forward to hearing from our nominee how the United States can support pandemic recovery efforts.

Additionally, given major investments by China in Jamaica, I look forward to hearing from our nominee about the risks to U.S. national interests and how we can strengthen relations with our neighbor.

Finally, let me welcome Ms. Levine to the committee. Congratulations on your nomination. Portugal is an important friend and ally of the United States, and as I am sure you know—I think we had a conversation yesterday which I enjoyed your visit—we have a robust Portuguese-American community in New Jersey, whose contributions to our state are immeasurable.

Portugal's role in NATO is essential to transatlantic security, including through its leadership of Baltic Air Policing missions. Portugal hosts the naval striking and support forces at NATO headquarters, and the U.S. 65th Air Base group at Lajes Air Base.

The U.S. is Portugal's largest non-EU trading partner, and our trade and investment relationship continues to grow.

I look forward to your swift arrival in Lisbon to continue to bolster our strong relationship with a key partner and ally.

Let me turn to for this hearing—the distinguished ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee has had a coup and Senator Risch has actually graciously conceded to him presiding over this hearing.

Senator Rubio?

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARCO RUBIO,
U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA**

Senator RUBIO. Anytime two Cubans are in charge of anything, it is usually called a conspiracy. But I appreciate the opportunity to share the co-chair to be the ranking member on this today.

Thank you all for being here. I am very happy to see the President has made these nominations to Honduras and to Jamaica. Senators Menendez and Kaine and myself sent a letter urging that he nominate qualified individuals throughout the Western Hemisphere.

These are two important posts. Starting with Honduras, the pandemic put more than 400,000 Hondurans out of work, and then two hurricanes that caused almost \$2 billion in damages to a country that really could not afford it.

And then on top of that, the energy sector is actually one of the least efficient in the entire region. I think it costs them about \$450 million dollars annually with 29 percent of energy produced lost in the transmission. It is a very serious problem.

They have a new government, and I hope that this new government will take the opportunity to implement common sense reforms that will make it a place that is more amenable to foreign investment.

Those things, I think, could end up resulting in things like nearshoring of U.S. supply chains, which we talk about that all the time.

Why are most things—if more things were being made in nations like Honduras closer to our country we would have a more secure supply chain, and we would be less reliant on disruptions coming from other regions of the world.

I hope the new president will follow that path and not the example that was set by her husband when he was the president and cozied up to Chavez in Venezuela and Raul Castro in Cuba, and I am concerned that she has openly suggested the idea of perhaps switching recognition from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China.

Ambassador Dogu, if you are confirmed, I hope you will use your extensive previous diplomatic experience including very difficult places like Nicaragua to help make clear and have influence over the new Honduran government as it seeks to navigate these challenges and in particular that we emphasize how important it is that that recognition of Taiwan not be switched.

When it comes to Jamaica, it is the largest English-speaking nation in the Caribbean. It has very strong cultural, historical, economic ties to this country and particularly to south Florida.

We have a very robust Jamaican-American and Jamaican expat community that does business in our state but remains citizens of Jamaica and they are undergoing a pretty ambitious reform program under Prime Minister Holness. Their public debt fell below 100 percent in GDP for the first time. Very impressive.

The United States is their largest trading partner and that does include companies that now provide products that form the very basis of exactly the kind of sustainable and secure supply chains we need more of.

They have a very strong economic relationship with the United States with my home state, but they are suffering the consequences of the illegal drug crisis that we are facing in this country.

Its location geographically makes it ripe for drug trafficking, and they have been a very strong partner. Jamaica has been a very strong partner in countering these drug trafficking networks and, obviously, we should continue to do more to bolster their capabilities to do that.

If confirmed, Assemblyman Perry, I hope you will build on your experience, not just in the legislature but also your deep ties to Jamaica, to help foster and continue to build on that U.S.-Jamaica partnership.

When it comes to Portugal, it is, obviously, a NATO ally and actually one that has really done quite a bit. They contributed significantly towards the operations in Afghanistan, the Baltic Air Policing mission, Rapid Reaction and Naval Strike Force.

And so if you are confirmed, you are overseeing a very important relationship for the United States at a very tense time, obviously, when it comes to NATO and recent and ongoing events in Ukraine.

And, finally, Dr. Lipstadt is the nominee to the U.S.—to be the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. I believe you will be the first person nominated to this position since my Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act became law in January of 2021, which made this position subject to Senate confirmation.

And my intent when I authored that law was to ensure that the Special Envoy would be a nonpartisan figure to develop and implement the department's policies to address the evil poison—the ancient and evil poison of antisemitism around the world.

And so you, clearly, bring considerable experience and breadth and scope of experience on Holocaust matters, on history. Authored numerous books and countless articles on the topic, both on the Holocaust and antisemitism, and I am really eager to learn how, if you are confirmed, you intend to continue the—our traditional nonpartisan approach to America's antisemitism policy, because I truly believe it is one that is shared by the overwhelming majority of people in American politics and American government and in America.

And I would like to note, if I can, Mr. Chairman, my colleague, Senator Lankford, provided a statement regarding this nomination and I ask that it be included in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The information referred to is located at the end of this transcript.]

Senator RUBIO. And with that, I want to thank all of you for being here today and for your willingness to serve your country. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Risch, the ranking member of the full committee?

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

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank Senator Rubio for agreeing to preside as ranking member on this because of the important matters regarding the Western Hemisphere and because the ranking member on the subcommittee often has deep knowledge of this.

In addition, we have the other nominations here: Portugal, which is very important, as both of you have pointed out, and then Ms. Lipstadt, whose nomination is very important. Senator Rubio mentioned how his bill that provided for this special envoy is warmly received by this committee.

This committee is strongly committed to fighting antisemitism, each and every member thereof. I am not aware of anyone who has any weakness whatsoever on this issue. I know there was some grumbling about how quickly Ms. Lipstadt's nomination went forward.

This is a learning moment for people who want to be appointed to something that requires Senate nomination. That is, whenever an appointee has made remarks publicly regarding a member, particularly of the Senate committee that is under jurisdiction, it always draws and should draw more scrutiny and more vetting than usual inasmuch as our job of advice and consent is very important.

I think this is going to become abundantly clear in a few moments when Senator Johnson has a few words to say on this particular subject.

Again, thank you, and thank you, Senator Rubio. It would be nice if you would return the favor occasionally and let me be ranking member on the Intelligence Committee, particularly, if we hold a hearing on unidentified flying objects, since, as you know, I am deeply committed to that issue.

Thank you very much.

Senator RUBIO. Now he has gone too far, but——

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Thank you, Senator Risch.

We will turn to our nominees for their statements. We ask you to summarize them in about five minutes or so so the committee can engage in a conversation with you. Your full statements will be included in the record, without objection.

And we will start with Dr. Lipstadt and just go down the roster. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF DR. DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT OF GEORGIA,
NOMINATED TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COM-
BAT ANTI-SEMITISM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR**

Ms. LIPSTADT. Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you, Senators.

Being here is one of the great honors and great surprises of my life. I am nominated for a rather unusual ambassadorship. With your permission, I begin with something rather unusual, a Hebrew blessing.

Barukh atah Adonai, matir assurim.—"Blessed are you G-d, who frees the captives."

This blessing was recited by Jews worldwide when we heard of the escape from the Colleyville synagogue of the resourceful and brave captives.

Many of us fearing the worst sat suspended over the void with another blessing at the ready.

Barukh dayan emet.—“Blessed is the merciful judge,” the blessing Jews traditionally recite upon hearing of a death, particularly, an untimely tragic one.

Senators, this was no isolated incident. Increasingly, Jews have been singled out for slander, violence, and terrorism.

Today’s rise in antisemitism is staggering. We witness a surge less than eight decades after one out of every three Jews on Earth was murdered. Often in their long history, Jews have felt abandoned, but then is not now, certainly, not in the United States.

Today, the American Government recognizes Jew hatred as a serious global challenge. I sit here because the United States in a bipartisan—the United States Senate in a bipartisan effort takes this problem seriously enough to create, fund, and now elevate this position to an ambassadorship.

Senators, I have taught about antisemitism for 40 years. I have written seven books and countless articles. I have designed museum exhibits, including at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I have lectured at universities from Germany to the Vatican’s Pontifical Institute. But I have not stayed in the academies’ ivory tower. I have confronted real-world antisemitism. I cite three life-changing moments.

In 1972 as a young graduate student, I visited the Soviet Union to meet refuseniks, the Soviet Jews whose applications to leave the USSR were rejected by Moscow. They lost their jobs, their families were harassed, their children bullied. I anticipated finding people cowering in fear. I did not.

Senators, though Soviet Jews were the bravest, most resolute people I have met. They spoke truth to tyranny and were profoundly liberated by so doing.

I went to strengthen their Jewish identity and their fight for freedom. I left strengthened by them and acutely aware of democracy’s precious gift.

A second episode. In 1996, I was sued for libel for describing the world’s leading Holocaust denier as a fraud, racist, and anti-Semite. He sued me in the U.K., hoping to exploit Britain’s more lenient libel laws.

The grueling six-year legal battle resulted in a resounding verdict in my favor and against antisemitism. Yet, for the 10 weeks of the trial, I listened in a London courtroom to a Hitler apologist spew Holocaust denial, antisemitism, and racism.

And, finally, a more recent episode. In 2021, I was an expert witness at the Charlottesville civil suit against the organizers of the vile August 2017 demonstration. For those extremists who came to Charlottesville ready to do battle, neo-Nazism, racism, and antisemitism are intimately intertwined.

Senators, as these episodes suggest, Jew hatred can be found across the entire political spectrum. One finds it among Christians, Muslims, atheists, and sadly, even a handful of Jews. One finds it

in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and even in countries with no Jews.

I am an equal opportunity foe of antisemitism. Unless one is willing to fight Jew hatred wherever one finds it, one should not be a nominee for this position.

My parents were immigrants to this exceptional republic, and they embedded in their children a love for country, a rock-solid Jewish identity, and the belief that we could achieve great things.

But they, certainly, never imagined that one of their children could be nominated for an ambassadorship, one that speaks of our republic's determination to confront a hatred that defies our founding ideals.

Senators, I am blessed with a job at a university—a job I love at a university I revere with inspiring students. This role, if I am honored by confirmation, will be difficult and demanding.

When first asked to apply for it, I told a friend I would not. But she said, you could make a difference.

Senators, if confirmed, I shall fight antisemitism worldwide without fear or favor and with that one goal emblazoned before me, to make a difference.

Finally, if confirmed, I pledge to make myself available to this committee, its members and staff, to seek advice and guidance wherever appropriate.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time and your consideration. Thank you for this great honor. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Lipstadt follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, Thank you, Senators. Being here is one of the great honors—and great surprises—of my life. I am nominated for a rather unusual ambassadorship, so with your permission, I'd like to open with something unusual:

A Hebrew blessing—*Barukh ata Adonai, matir assurim*. Blessed are you G-d, who frees the captives.

This blessing was recited by Jews worldwide when we heard of the escape from the Colleyville, Texas, synagogue of the resourceful and incredibly brave captives.

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Senators, this was no isolated incident. Increasingly, Jews have been singled out for slander, violence and terrorism.

Today's rise in antisemitism is staggering. It is especially alarming that we witness such a surge less than eight decades after one out of three Jews on Earth was murdered.

Often, in their long history Jews have felt abandoned. But then is not now, certainly not in the United States.

Today the American Government recognizes Jew-hatred as a serious global challenge. I sit here because, the United States Senate, in a bipartisan effort led by Senators Rosen and Lankford, takes this problem seriously enough to create, fund, and now, elevate this position to an Ambassadorship.

Senators, I have taught about antisemitism for 40 years. I have written seven books and countless articles about it. I have designed museum exhibits, including at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I have lectured at universities from Germany to the Vatican's Pontifical Institute.

But I haven't stayed in the academy's Ivory Tower. I have repeatedly confronted real world antisemitism. I cite three life-changing moments.

- In 1972, when I was a young graduate student, I visited the Soviet Union to meet Refuseniks, the Soviet Jews whose applications to leave the USSR for

Israel or the United States were rejected by Moscow. They lost their jobs; their families were harassed; their children were bullied.

I anticipated finding people cowering in fear. I did not. Senators, those Soviet Jews were the bravest, most resolute people I've met. They spoke truth to tyranny and were profoundly liberated by so doing. I went to strengthen their Jewish identity and their fight for freedom. I left strengthened by them and acutely aware of democracy's precious gift.

- Let me share a second episode. In 1996, I was sued for libel for accurately describing the world's leading Holocaust denier as a fraud, racist, and antisemite. He sued me in the U.K., hoping to exploit Britain's more lenient libel laws. The grueling six-year legal battle resulted in a resounding verdict in my favor and against antisemitism. Yet for the ten weeks of the trial, I sat in a London courtroom, listening to a Hitler apologist spew Holocaust denial, antisemitism, and racism.
- And finally, a more recent episode. In 2021, I was an expert witness at the Charlottesville civil suit against the organizers of the vile August 2017 demonstration. For those extremists, who came to Charlottesville ready to do battle, neo-Nazism, racism and antisemitism are intimately intertwined.

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Senators, I am blessed with a job I love, at a university I revere, with inspiring students. This new role, if I am honored by confirmation, will be difficult and demanding. When I was first asked to apply for it, I told an old friend that I doubted I would. Without hesitation, she said, "But you could make a difference."

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Finally, if confirmed, I pledge to make myself available to this committee, its members, and staff to seek advice and guidance wherever appropriate.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time and your consideration. Thank you for this great honor. I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Dr. Lipstadt, for a very powerful statement.

Ambassador Dogu?

STATEMENT OF THE HON. LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

Ms. DOGU. Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Rubio, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to advance our Nation's interests alongside Honduras' first woman president in its 200-year history.

During a public service career that has taken me around the world, including to Nicaragua as the U.S. Ambassador, I have leaned on my family for support.

My late husband and I raised two sons who are both serving our Nation, one with two combat tours in Afghanistan with the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the other on the frontlines of our nation's defense with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Unfortunately, their military duties did not allow them to be here today, but I am very proud of their service to our nation and I know they are supporting me remotely.

The United States has a strong and multifaceted partnership with Honduras. As Assistant Secretary Nichols testified, too many ordinary citizens in the region's democracies saw their governments failing to meet their expectations and aspirations for a better future.

Corruption remained rampant. Economies grew, but so did inequality. Crime and insecurity took too many lives and stymied the region's development.

But the citizens of Honduras confronted these challenges and demonstrated their belief in democracy by voting in historic numbers on November 28th.

If confirmed, I will work with the U.S. Congress and interagency, the Honduran government and people, international partners, civil society, and the private sector to promote a democratic Honduras, a Honduras with transparent institutions that fight corruption, narcotics trafficking, and organized crime, to enhance security and address the root causes of migration, including through promoting human rights.

I will work with these same diverse partners to reactivate the economy, enhance climate resilience, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Government supports the new president's plans to reduce corruption, including through internationally supported mechanisms.

Through DOD, DEA, and State's INL program, the embassy works to improve Honduras' ability to interdict drugs and disrupt drug trafficking and other transnational criminal networks. The new administration's focus on citizen security presents an opportunity to cooperate with the highest levels of government in Honduras on this issue.

Honduras also works with the United States, including the Department of Homeland Security, to address irregular migration. Its efforts have included expanded document checks in checkpoints, strengthened reintegration services for minors and families to deter recidivism, and acceptance of direct flights of migrants expelled from the United States under Title 42.

Hondurans remain among the largest group of Central Americans apprehended at the U.S. border, partially due to a lack of economic opportunity at home. One of the poorest countries in the hemisphere based on per capita GDP, Honduras struggles to attract investment. A low-skilled labor force, endemic corruption, and unpredictable regulations in judiciary complicate Honduras' efforts to become an investment destination.

In addition to a 9 percent GDP contraction during the pandemic, two hurricanes hit the Sula Valley in November of 2020, destroying agricultural and manufacturing centers.

Our colleagues at U.S. Southern Command, Soto Cano Airbase, and USAID responded to address immediate survival needs. But food insecurity reached crisis levels in Honduras, prompting the embassy to declare emergencies in 2021 and 2022.

These hurricanes and an ongoing drought highlight the need for climate resilient infrastructure and industries. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted studies to help with recovery in the Sula Valley.

If confirmed, I look forward to advancing a U.S. government wide approach to help Honduras during its reconstruction and economic recovery.

Honduras faces many challenges on human rights and gender-based violence, issues that appear in the pillars of the U.S. strategy to address the root causes of migration, and we have committed to helping Hondurans address these issues.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two countries held a high-level Human Rights Working Group, which I look forward to resuming within the context of a new bilateral strategic dialogue that will launch in April.

We promote Taiwan as a valuable partner, and I will make clear the importance of a Honduras-Taiwan relationship and do all I can to enhance Honduras' partnerships with other democracies.

In conclusion, if confirmed, I look forward to leading our team of professionals at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. My highest priorities will be to protect U.S. citizens and champion the interests of the United States in cooperation with our partners in Honduras.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear here today before you. If confirmed, I look forward to working very closely with this committee, and I am happy to answer your questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Dogu follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member, distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to advance our nation's interests as the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras alongside the country's first woman president in its 200-year history.

During a public service career that has taken me around the world, including to Nicaragua as Ambassador, I have leaned on my family for their support.

My late husband and I raised two sons who both serve our nation—one with two combat tours in Afghanistan with the 75th Ranger Regiment and the other on the front lines of our nation's defense with the 82nd Airborne Division.

The United States has a strong and multifaceted partnership with Honduras. As Assistant Secretary Nichols testified, "too many ordinary citizens in the region's democracies saw their governments failing to meet their expectations and aspirations for a better future. Corruption remained rampant. Economies grew but so did inequality. Crime and insecurity took too many lives and stymied the region's development." The citizens of Honduras confronted these challenges and demonstrated their belief in democracy by voting in historic numbers on November 28.

If confirmed, I will work with the U.S. Congress and interagency, the Honduran Government, international partners, civil society, and the private sector to promote a democratic Honduras with transparent institutions that fight corruption, narcotics trafficking, and organized crime to enhance security and address the root causes of migration, including through promoting human rights. I will work with those same diverse partners to reactivate the economy, enhance climate resilience, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic using all available tools, including the new Strategic Dialogue.

The U.S. Government supports the new Honduran president's efforts to expand Honduran Government efforts to reduce corruption, including through internationally-supported mechanisms. If confirmed, I will prioritize U.S. cooperation on those efforts.

Through DOD, DEA, and State's INL programs, the Embassy works to improve Honduras' ability to interdict drugs and disrupt drug trafficking and other transnational criminal networks. Honduras seized 17.8 metric tons of cocaine in 2021, up from 3.4 metric tons in 2020. The new administration's focus on citizen security presents an opportunity to cooperate with the highest levels of government in Honduras on this issue.

Honduras works with the United States, including DHS, to address irregular migration. Its efforts have included expanded document checks and checkpoints, strengthened reintegration services for minors and families to deter recidivism, and acceptance of direct flights of migrants expelled from the United States under Title 42. Hondurans remain among the largest groups of Central Americans apprehended at the U.S. border, partially due to lack of economic opportunity at home.

The fourth poorest country in the hemisphere based on per capita GDP, Honduras struggles to attract investment. A low-skilled labor force, endemic corruption, and unpredictable regulations and judiciary complicate Honduras' efforts to become an investment destination. Poverty, corruption, and economic stagnation contribute to emigration. In addition to a 9 percent GDP contraction during the pandemic, two hurricanes hit the Sula Valley in November 2020, destroying agricultural and manufacturing centers. Our colleagues at U.S. Southern Command, Soto Cano Air Base, and USAID responded to address immediate survival needs. Food insecurity reached crisis levels in Honduras, prompting the U.S. embassy to declare emergencies in 2021 and 2022.

These hurricanes and an ongoing drought highlight the need for climate resilient infrastructure and industries. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted studies to help with recovery in the Sula Valley. If confirmed, I look forward to advancing a U.S. Government-wide approach to help Honduras during its reconstruction and economic recovery.

Honduras faces many challenges on human rights, an issue that appears in the pillars of the U.S. Strategy to Address the Root Causes of Migration, and we have committed to helping Hondurans address these issues. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Department and Honduras held a high-level Bilateral Human Rights Working Group, which I look forward to resuming with the new government, if confirmed, within the context of the new Strategic Dialogue that will launch in April. U.S. embassy officials attend, when possible, human rights-related trials. Gender-based violence remains highly prevalent in Honduras. The latest U.N. femicide data show Honduras has the highest rate in Latin America with 6.2 per 100,000.

We promote Taiwan as a valuable partner. If confirmed, I will make clear the importance of the Honduras-Taiwan relationship and do all I can to enhance Honduras' partnerships with other democracies. We see an opportunity to align U.S. investment and development priorities with key democratic partners to help Honduras succeed. In conclusion, if confirmed, I look forward to leading our Embassy in Tegucigalpa. My highest priorities will be to protect U.S. citizens and champion the interests of the United States in cooperation with our partners in Honduras.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee. I'm happy to answer your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Ambassador.
Ms. Levine?

STATEMENT OF RANDI CHARNO LEVINE OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

Ms. LEVINE. Thank you, Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic.

I am deeply honored to be considered for this position and I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for the confidence that they have placed in me.

I pledge to do my very best to represent our great country and to lead the U.S. Mission to one of our most reliable European partners.

Thanks to Senator Schumer for his gracious introduction. I remember getting a call from him in the car on the way to our son's Bar Mitzvah—he is 37 today—and he said, Ben, you are a lucky boy. Your parents have worked hard to get you here so make them proud. And indeed, our children have made us so proud.

Ben and his wife, Zoe, our daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Evan, our daughter, Dara, and her husband, Jonathan, and our most precious treasures watching today, our grandchildren, Eli and Orly.

My husband, Jeff, is with me here today. He has been my partner and my rock for more than 40 years. We are proof that the American dream is alive and well.

Jeff's parents, Irene and Irving, a cab driver, raised their four children in public housing in Brooklyn. My mother, Wendy, was an elementary school teacher and my father, Eddy Charno, owned a pharmacy in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, down the block from where his father, Joe, lived and worked when he emigrated here from Poland in the 1900s.

The Charno family has always believed in the importance of serving the community, and a street in Brooklyn was renamed Charno Way to commemorate this history.

My nomination as Ambassador follows our family's long-standing commitment to service and would bring them so much pride and joy.

My road to public service was paved by the arts. I am a passionate arts advocate and supporter of using cultural exchanges to advance diplomacy.

If confirmed, I will draw upon my extensive work at Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy to build partnerships that will advance American interests and enrich our bilateral relationship.

Portugal has been a strong U.S. partner for more than 200 years and was among the first countries to recognize U.S. independence. It is home to the longest continuously operating U.S. consulate at the Azores. Our partnership is built on shared values, a commitment to human rights, to democracy, and to the rule of law.

As a founding member of NATO, Portugal is an essential player in strengthening our transatlantic relationships and defending against malign influences in the region.

Portugal is also a notable partner in global defense. It deploys thousands of troops overseas each year to NATO, the EU, the U.N. and international peacekeeping efforts including the global coalition to defeat ISIS.

Portugal hosts, proudly, the U.S. Air Force's 65th airbase group at Lajes Field in the Azores, an important outpost for transatlantic peace and security.

And Portugal's collaboration with the Lusophone African countries offers the transatlantic alliance the opportunity to enhance regional security and promote prosperity in the South Atlantic.

If confirmed, Senators, I will have three priorities. My top priority will always be the safety and security of Americans in Portugal, including the outstanding personnel and family members of Embassy Lisbon and our consulate at the Azores. I will also work to enhance bilateral and regional security efforts.

Second, I will work to deepen our bilateral economic ties. Bilateral trade and goods between our two countries reached \$4.6 billion in 2020. The United States is Portugal's largest trading partner outside of the EU. Portuguese investment in the United States is significant, particularly in tech and in renewable energy projects.

Third, I will collaborate with the Portuguese to address shared existential challenges, including fighting climate change and combating COVID-19. I will also work closely with Portugal to address any significant challenges that the People's Republic of China poses to our national security and to align efforts to deter Russia's destabilizing activities.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with you, this committee, to strengthen our partnership with Portugal and to advance U.S. interests.

Thank you for allowing me to testify, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Levine follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF RANDI LEVINE

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic.

I am deeply honored to be considered for this position. I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for the confidence they have placed in me. If confirmed, I pledge to do my very best to serve our great country and to lead the U.S. Mission to one of our most reliable European partners.

Thank you, Senator Schumer, for your gracious introduction. I remember getting a call from you on our way to our son Ben's Bar Mitzvah years ago. You said: "Ben, you are a lucky boy! Your parents have worked hard to get you here, so make them proud."

Our children have indeed made us proud: Ben and his wife Zoe, our daughter Jessica and her husband Evan, our daughter Dara and her husband Jonathan, and our most precious treasures, our grandchildren Eli and Orly.

My husband, Jeff, is with me here today. He has been my partner and rock for more than 40 years. We are proof that the American dream is alive and well. Jeff's parents Irene and Irving, a cab driver, raised their four children in public housing in Brooklyn. My mother Wendy was an elementary school teacher and my father, Eddy Charno, owned a pharmacy in Greenpoint, Brooklyn down the block from where his father Joe lived and worked when he emigrated from Poland in the early 1900s.

The Charno family has always believed in the importance of serving the community. A street in Brooklyn was renamed Charno Way to commemorate this history. My nomination as Ambassador follows our family's longstanding commitment to service and would bring them so much pride and joy.

My road to public service was paved by the arts. I am a passionate arts advocate and supporter of using cultural exchanges to advance diplomacy. If confirmed, I will draw upon my extensive work at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy to build partnerships that will advance American interests and enrich our bilateral relationship.

Portugal has been a strong U.S. partner for more than 200 years and was among the first countries to recognize U.S. independence. It is home to the longest continu-

ously operating U.S. consulate in the Azores. Our partnership is built on shared values: a commitment to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

As a founding member of NATO, Portugal is an essential player in strengthening our transatlantic relationships and defending against malign influences in the region.

Portugal is also a notable partner in global defense. It deploys thousands of troops overseas each year to NATO, the EU, the U.N., and international peacekeeping efforts, including the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. Portugal hosts the U.S. Air Force's 65th Air Base Group at Lajes Field in the Azores, an important outpost for transatlantic peace and security.

Portugal's collaboration with the Lusophone African countries offers the transatlantic alliance an opportunity to enhance regional security and promote mutual prosperity in the South Atlantic.

If confirmed, I will have three priorities:

- My top priority will be the safety and security of Americans in Portugal, including the outstanding personnel and family members of Embassy Lisbon and our Consulate in the Azores. I will also work to enhance bilateral and regional security efforts.
- Second, I will work to deepen our bilateral economic ties. Bilateral trade in goods between our two countries reached \$4.6 billion in 2020. The United States is Portugal's largest trading partner outside of the EU. Portuguese investment in the United States is significant, particularly in tech and renewable energy projects.
- Third, I will collaborate with the Portuguese to address shared existential challenges, including fighting climate change and combating COVID-19. I will also work closely with Portugal to address any significant challenges that the People's Republic of China poses to our national security and align efforts to deter Russia's destabilizing activities.

If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this committee to strengthen our partnerships with Portugal and advance U.S. interests.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Perry?

**STATEMENT OF HON. N. NICKOLAS PERRY OF NEW YORK,
NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
JAMAICA**

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to Jamaica.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senate Majority Leader Schumer for his recommendation to the President, for his steadfast support, and for taking some time to introduce me today.

I also express my appreciation for the encouragement I have received from others in New York's congressional delegation.

I am grateful to appear before you today accompanied by my wife, Joyce, and my son, Nickolas Alexander. My daughter, Novalie, and granddaughter, Justine, are not here, but I am assured of their full support.

This continuation of my lifelong journey of public service is deeply personal to me. I was born and raised in Jamaica in a family of 11 children. After attending and graduating from secondary school, I worked for the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union briefly before moving to the United States in the summer of 1971.

My career in public service began soon after my arrival. I volunteered for the Selective Service, was drafted into the United States

Army, and served for two years of active duty, including a year-long deployment to South Korea and four years on reserve status before being honorably discharged.

I attended Brooklyn College on the GI Bill, graduating with a BA in political science, and later studied for a MA in public policy and administration.

After college, I got involved with community organizing, was appointed to a local community board, and eventually was elected to five consecutive terms as chairman of that board.

As committee board chair, I concurrently served five consecutive terms on the Brooklyn Bar board before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1992. I have since served for nearly 30 years, and is currently the assistant speaker pro tempore.

I have dedicated my career in public service working across diverse communities to build consensus on issues of social importance.

If confirmed, I believe my experience and perspective as a state legislator for almost 30 years, complemented by my background as an American who was born and raised in Jamaica for the first 20 years of my life, could contribute positively to strengthening the United States partnership with Jamaica.

As the safety and security of Americans abroad is the State Department's top priority, if confirmed, I pledge to fulfill my responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of all U.S. citizens, including supporting the security of U.S. citizens living in or traveling to Jamaica.

I pledge to also coordinate closely with U.S. law enforcement agencies and Jamaican counterparts to address the threats posed by transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking and human trafficking, including through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

The United States is leading the world in the fight against COVID-19 by donating more vaccines than any other nation combined. Recognizing the severe impact of the pandemic on Jamaica, if confirmed, I will ensure we continue U.S. backing to address Jamaica's COVID-19 public health-related challenges and to help Jamaica recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

As the world looks to create an equitable clean energy future and millions of good paying jobs, if confirmed, I will also work to support innovative U.S. engagement with Jamaica in promoting renewable energy sources to help stabilize electricity cost, promote a reliable, resilient, and low-carbon power grid to assist the country's development.

Finally, if confirmed, I pledge to make myself available to this committee, its members, and staff to seek your advice and guidance where appropriate.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Perry follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF N. NICK PERRY

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee today. I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee to serve as the United

States Ambassador to Jamaica. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senate Majority Leader Schumer for his steadfast support and express my appreciation for the encouragement I have received from others within New York's Congressional delegation. I am grateful to appear before you today accompanied by my wife—Joyce; my children—Novalie and Nickolas Alexander; and my granddaughter—Justine.

This continuation of my lifelong journey of public service is deeply personal to me. I was born and raised in Jamaica in a family of eleven children. After attending and graduating from secondary school, I worked for the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union briefly before moving to the United States in the summer of 1971. My career in public service began soon after my arrival. I volunteered for the selective service, was drafted into the U.S. Army, and served for two years of active duty—including a yearlong deployment to South Korea—and four years on reserve status before being honorably discharged. I attended Brooklyn College on the G.I. Bill, graduating with a B.A. in Political Science, and later studied for an M.A. in Public Policy and Administration. After college, I got involved with community organizing, was appointed to the local Community Board, and eventually was elected to five consecutive terms as Chairman of that Board. As Community Board Chair, I concurrently served five consecutive terms on the

Brooklyn Borough Board before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1992, where I have served for nearly 30 years and currently serve as the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore.

I have dedicated my career in public service working across diverse communities to build consensus on issues of social importance. If confirmed, I believe my experience and perspective as a state legislator for almost 30 years, complemented by my background as an American who was born and raised in Jamaica for the first 20 years of my life, could contribute positively to strengthening the United States' partnership with Jamaica.

As the safety and security of Americans abroad is the State Department's top priority, if confirmed, I pledge to fulfill my responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of all U.S. citizens, including supporting the security of U.S. citizens living in or traveling to Jamaica. I pledge to also coordinate closely with U.S. law enforcement agencies and Jamaican counterparts to address the threats posed by transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, including through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

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As the world looks to create an equitable clean energy future and millions of good-paying jobs, if confirmed, I will also work to support innovative U.S. engagement with Jamaica in promoting renewable energy sources to help stabilize electricity costs and promote a reliable, resilient, and low-carbon power grid to assist the country's development.

Recognizing Jamaica's vulnerability to the effects of the climate crisis, including extreme weather events like hurricanes, storms, and flooding, I commit to continue working with Jamaica to strengthen its preparedness for and resilience to such climate and severe weather impacts.

I understand Jamaica has one of the highest rates of HIV in the Caribbean. If confirmed, I will advance the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and work with government and civil society to support the timely diagnosis and treatment of persons living with HIV.

If confirmed, I will also work closely with the Jamaican government to promote and protect fundamental freedoms and human rights, including for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and to combat gender-based violence, and to make tangible progress in fighting trafficking in persons.

Finally, if confirmed, I pledge to make myself available to this committee, its members, and staff to seek your advice and guidance where appropriate.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time and your consideration. I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you all very much for your statements.

Before I start a round a five-minute questions, I have questions that we ask on behalf of the committee as a whole, and it goes to each nominee and I would just simply ask you for a yes or no response.

These are questions that speak to the importance that this committee places on responsiveness by all officials in the executive branch and that we expect and will be seeking from you.

Do you agree to appear before this committee and make officials from your office available to the committee and designated staff when invited?

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. Do you commit to keep this committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

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

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

The CHAIRMAN. And, finally, do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the committee and its designated staff?

[All witnesses answer in the affirmative.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

All of the nominees have responded yes to all the questions and shall be recorded. The chair will reserve his time and turn to Senator Rubio for his questions.

Senator RUBIO. Let us begin with the Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. Let us just—as I think Senator Lankford pointed out in his letter, this is a position that we want to make sure is one that is represented as a nonpartisan one, that the world knows that America is united on this and it gives us the strength of our voice around the world, obviously, and I want to give you a chance to address it.

As you know, you have answered questions and have in the past addressed a series of social media posts and the like that referenced members of the Republican Party, members of the Senate, and the like and, clearly, as an American, you have the absolute right. We do not believe in canceling anybody. People have a right to speak out and express their views.

But I think you would understand how someone seeing that would then be concerned that a position that is supposed to be nonpartisan how could that be so if someone has expressed these views in recent history.

I wanted to give you an opportunity to sort of address to someone who is concerned about your ability to operate in a nonpartisan way how do we reconcile that with very strong opinions that you have expressed in the past about both individuals in the Senate and also the Republican Party, frankly?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Thank you for the question, Senator Rubio, and thank you for the chance to address that issue.

As I said in my opening statement, I am an equal opportunity critic of anyone who says something or people—it does not matter what end or even in the middle of the political spectrum they may place themselves.

I, firmly, believe that those people who only see antisemitism or any form of prejudice but, certainly, antisemitism, on the other side

of the political transom are not really interested in fighting anti-semitism.

They are weaponizing antisemitism and there is no excuse for that at all. I have been critical and I acknowledge it. I have also learned not to tweet in the middle of the night. Very bad thing to do. And I have sometimes not been as nuanced in my tweets as I would like.

But I think if you look at my criticism holistically, you will see that I have been exceptionally critical of members of the Democratic Party, of people on the end of the spectrum—political spectrum—where I place myself.

I have written about Antifa, for instance, as a violent, anti-democratic, self-serving and dangerous entity. I have criticized specific members when I feel that they have said something that can be construed or is anti-Semitic.

Finally, the last two points. A person's political persuasions are irrelevant in the fight against antisemitism.

And the last point I want to make is when I am critical, I am not critical of the person themselves, particularly if I do not know the person or have had no contact with the person, but of what they said and how that might be interpreted.

Senator RUBIO. I wanted to ask about Amnesty International. Their recent report—I am sure you are very familiar with it at this point—I think it falsely—well, it does—it falsely frames Israel as a singular evil among the nations of the world.

Is that kind of language from an organization like that—could that be something that helps to justify and foster anti-Semitic attacks against Jews across the globe?

Ms. LIPSTADT. I found the language used in that report—I do not want to talk about the details of the report—but that kind of language I found it more than ahistorical. I found it unhistorical.

Branding Israel an apartheid state is more than historically inaccurate. I believe it is part of a larger effort to delegitimize the Jewish state.

Such language, I see it is spilling over onto campuses where it poisons the atmosphere, particularly, for Jewish students. You have to ask why people are using that kind of language. What are they trying to accomplish?

And I know that the Biden and Harris administration has taken a very strong position on this. In fact, last month, the State Department spokesman cited the department's vehement disagreement with that language, and probably our Ambassador to Israel, Tom Nides, said it best, albeit in a tweet. He said, "Come on. This is absurd." And I second that.

Senator RUBIO. I guess I will reserve my questions on Honduras if we go to a second round.

I just wanted to ask on the topic of Honduras, and, obviously, these countries are people that choose their leaders and they have a right to elect them.

But there is reason to be concerned, is there not, with both the statements recently made about this desire to, potentially, engage—abandon diplomatic recognition of Taiwan and switch it to Beijing?

I just want an assurance that would be a priority for us—for you, if confirmed to this post, that it would be—and it reflects the—I believe, the official position of the United States, that would be very forceful in making that a priority and in laying out the arguments for why we think that would be a bad idea.

Ms. DOGU. Senator Rubio—

Senator RUBIO. Your microphone. I am sorry.

Ms. DOGU [continuing]. Senator Rubio, since the elections there have been many high-level visits from Washington down to Honduras, and I know that everybody that has made that visit and spoken with the new government down there has stressed the importance of that relationship with Taiwan.

And as you heard me say in my opening statement, I, too, if confirmed, will uphold that strong position. I do believe it is very important for the government of Honduras to continue their relationship with the government of Taiwan.

I think it can be beneficial. Obviously, it has been in the past and I think it will continue to be so. I think there are opportunities to work together, especially in the economic space.

Obviously, the government of Taiwan has succeeded in developing a strong economy in their own country, and I think there are lessons that can be learned and shared and investments that can be made and should be made in Honduras.

I do commit to you that I would continue to take that position and to work strongly to maintain that relationship with Taiwan if I am confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cardin?

Senator CARDIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for convening this hearing.

I want to congratulate all four of our nominees and thank them for their willingness to serve our country, and also thank their families for recognizing that this is going to be a family commitment for the service that you all have been nominated for.

Ms. Lipstadt, I want to concur with Senator Rosen and Senator Schumer and thank you for your extraordinary service to date in fighting antisemitism. You are extremely well qualified and you are the right person at this moment when we see a rise globally of antisemitism, including here in the United States.

For over two decades, the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I now have the honor to chair, has been raising the concerns about the rise of antisemitism. It was the work of the Helsinki Commission that led to the Berlin Conference that took place in 2005, in which we gathered together to plan a strategy to fight the rise of antisemitism.

And there was a good action plan that came out of the Berlin Conference which includes the responsibility of leaders to speak out about any form of antisemitism that occurs under their watch, sharing best practices, law enforcement training, sharing data information, particularly on hate crimes.

There were recommendations that came out of the Berlin Conference in 2004, and despite those recommendations, we now see a rise of antisemitism.

I am the Special Representative for Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and during the

2019 Parliamentary Assembly in Luxembourg we convened a separate section to deal with antisemitism and it was very well attended.

One of the recommendations that came out of that particular conference was the fact that we should not be tunnel visioned in our strategies that we need to form coalitions, because hate knows no religious or ethnic bound. Those that are going to be committing these types of hate crimes will target any marginalized group.

My question to you is, what new strategies can you bring, recognizing the challenges have been here for some time and in recent time has grown rather dramatically?

We all know that. When I used to visit Europe a couple—10, 15 years ago, I was surprised to see the level of security at Jewish institutions. Now I see that level plus here in the United States at Jewish institutions. All we have to do is take a look at the assessments we are getting for security in our synagogues.

My question to you is how do you see your role to recognize that we have met before, we have had strategies before, these strategies have been effective to a limited degree, and how do we form coalitions so that we recognize that antisemitism is based in hate, which also affects other groups of individuals?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Thank you, Senator. Thank you for your kind words.

I, too, have commented often on the fact that it used to be when we went to Europe you could identify the synagogue by the gendarmes and now that is the case in the United States, and I am particularly honored that one of my guests today is Anna Eisen Salton, the founding president of Congregation Beth Israel is Colleyville, Texas, the child of two survivors, and who watched with her 100-year-old mother on Facebook the recent assault on that synagogue.

I also am very pleased to be accompanied by Diane D'Costa, a graduate alum of the University of Virginia, who hid in her room as the marchers passed by that night in Charlottesville and then escaped in the dead of night and said it reminded her of her grandmother escaping from Poland.

All those things we relegated to history, all those things we relegated to Europe, are now here as well, even though my position, of course, is global antisemitism.

To your question in terms of what I would do—my goals—I think, on some level, the same—more of what has been done, more of the basis, the foundation, that you and your colleagues and your fellow senators have laid over the years.

But I am an educator, and I know when I go into a room with other—with representatives, whether it is of organizations, whether it is NGOs or it is government representatives, I want to make them understand, first of all, the pernicious nature of antisemitism, and one would think that after the Holocaust and after everything that has gone on you would not have to do that, that that would be bringing coals to Newcastle.

But, sadly, it is the fact. Many people who take other hatreds very seriously will sometimes, as a sop, say, and antisemitism. Whereas I say the Jew is often the canary in the coal mine. No de-

mocracy has ever been a healthy democracy if it abided anti-semitism.

I look forward to partnerships, to educating, to stressing that though Jews may not present as other victims, antisemitism is a prejudice like other prejudices with its distinct characteristic. It has got to be addressed and it has got to be addressed wherever you find it.

I do not care if I agree with you on everything else you say. If you are engaging in antisemitism, I am going to call you out and I am going to address it. It cannot be a political weapon.

Senator CARDIN. Thank you for that.

Mr. Chairman, let me just point out the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum gives you a real tool in your toolkit to fight antisemitism.

But it is interesting that that organization is very much engaged in all forms of hatred against racial minorities and religious minorities because there is that common theme, and working in coalition we can present a stronger package to fight antisemitism.

Thank you, again, for your willingness to serve.

Ms. LIPSTADT. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Risch?

Senator RISCH. Mr. Chairman, I am going to yield to Senator Johnson. He has another appointment.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Johnson?

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Lipstadt, I attended the inaugural address of President Biden. I completely agreed with his goal that he laid out, his number-one goal to unify and heal this nation. I would assume you would agree with that as well?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely.

Senator JOHNSON. A year later, do you think our nation is more unified? Are we healing?

Ms. LIPSTADT. I think not.

Senator JOHNSON. Okay.

Ms. LIPSTADT. I think there are deep divisions.

Senator JOHNSON. I agree with you on that. I think one way to try and heal our nation, try and unify it, is person to person. Are you familiar with something called the Joseph Project in Milwaukee, Wisconsin?

Ms. LIPSTADT. No, I am not.

Senator JOHNSON. I will take just a brief time to describe it. It is something I teamed up with a pastor in an inner city church, Pastor Jerome Smith, a wonderful man.

His congregation is, obviously, largely African American, but we have used this to connect people with real opportunity—you know, people of all races, all genders, people, some of them formerly incarcerated, some just down in their life—alcohol, drug abusers, that type of thing. People who want to turn their lives around by improving their attitude, committing to success, and we have literally transformed hundreds of lives. I wish it was thousands. I wish it was tens of thousands, but literally hundreds of lives.

Does that sound like a pretty good way to heal this nation, working with individuals on a person-to-person basis?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely. You can make broad policy pronouncements, but unless you have changed facts on the ground nothing is going to change.

Senator JOHNSON. Yeah. I agree. I think it has been very healing, certainly, for those individuals that participate in it.

A way not to heal, I think, is what is happening on social media. It was interesting to hear Senator Schumer talk about the malicious poison, and what is happening on social media so often is just malicious and it comes, as I think you said in your opening statement, from across the political spectrum. We need to all condemn it.

Let me ask you a question. If somebody came up to you privately, quietly, and said, you are racist—you are a white supremacist—you are white nationalist—by the way, I do not believe you are.

I would never assume that because, certainly, growing up when I was being taught the commandment that says do not bear false witness, my Lutheran Catechism says always put the best construction on things.

In other words, always assume the best about people, not the worst. How would you feel if somebody just privately called you are racist?

Ms. LIPSTADT. First of all, I would say they are wrong. Second of all, I would disagree with them and, as I said earlier but I want to reiterate, that even in my critiques of people I am very careful never to ascribe to the person.

Senator JOHNSON. I thought—I heard that. I thought that was interesting. You say you never criticize the person.

But that is not true. What you just testified there is false because not only did you go on—first of all, you do not know me. You do not know a lot of the people that you have accused online in front of millions of people.

You have engaged in the malicious poison. You have accused people you do not know of very vile things. I mean, would you not agree that probably calling somebody a racist is just shy—just under murderer and rapist, calling somebody a racist?

That is about as serious and vile accusation as you can hurl against somebody, somebody you do not even know. I mean, you have never talked to me. You have never met me. You do not know what is in my heart, do you?

Ms. LIPSTADT. I have no idea what—no, I do not know what is in your heart at all. I know what—

Senator JOHNSON. So why would you go on social media and make those charges? And not only me—and by the way, what Senator Rubio said, this position is supposed to be for a nonpartisan.

It seems like how you engage in malicious poison is purely partisan. You are hurling these charges against people that are, generally, one political persuasion. That is not nonpartisan.

But, again, why did you—why did you go on social media and level these vile and horrible charges against people, including me that you do not even know? You did not know anything about the Joseph Project. You do not know about my—what is in my heart. Why did you do it?

Ms. LIPSTADT. First of all, I do not think—as far as I can tell—and I am happy to have this conversation further or right here—call you personally—I do not call people personally—

Senator JOHNSON. No. I mean, we all know the tweet. It is right here.

Ms. LIPSTADT. Right. Right.

Senator JOHNSON. Okay. You said it is pure and simple—pure and simple—white supremacy, nationalism, and then you refer to articles—

Ms. LIPSTADT. Right.

Senator JOHNSON [continuing]. That continue the charge. Do you feel bad about that at all? I mean, do you—

Ms. LIPSTADT. I—

Senator JOHNSON [continuing]. Do you retract that? I mean, do you—I mean, what is your current position on this?

The CHAIRMAN. Can we allow the witness to answer your questions?

Ms. LIPSTADT [continuing]. As I said earlier, it was not nuanced. I would not do diplomacy by tweet. While I may disagree with what you said specifically, and I think that is a legitimate difference, I certainly did not mean it and I am sorry if it was taken and I am sorry if I made it in the way that it could be assumed to be a political—at the person personally.

Senator JOHNSON. Listen, I appreciate your apology and I will accept your apology. It is more than, for example, what the chairman of this committee has done and other members who have also callously and cavalierly hurled those same charges that I would consider are malicious poison to our body politic today.

But, again, I appreciate the apology. But I think somebody that has had a 30-year professional career ought to know better, and when you are being nominated and considered for confirmation to a position of diplomacy representing these United States, I certainly cannot support your nomination. I hope my other colleagues will not either. You just, simply, are not qualified for it. But I wish you the best in life, and I do accept your apology.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Van Hollen is next.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations to all of you on your nominations.

Dr. Lipstadt, I did want to follow up on what Senator Rosen mentioned, Senator Cardin, I think, the Chairman, about what we all recognize is an alarming increase—rise in antisemitism both here at home and around the world.

Just recently here in the Washington, D.C., area we have seen swastikas drawn on the walls in Union Station and pamphlets spreading COVID-19 misinformation and anti-Semitic hatred in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Worldwide, we have seen a new phenomena of public figures comparing COVID-19 public health restrictions to the horrors of the Holocaust.

Can you talk about what your priorities would be, what your immediate strategy would be, if you were confirmed in this position to begin to address the challenge of antisemitism globally?

Ms. LIPSTADT. First of all, as I have said before and I said just now, to fight it wherever I find it, but also I think it is necessary

to help people—politicians, policymakers, media, whomever—understand what Jew hatred is.

We have seen in this country in recent weeks well-known people, prominent people, mangle an understanding of what is Jew hatred, and I think that is exceptionally important.

I also think it is important sometimes working with our partners bilaterally, countries who are partners on so many things, that sometimes what they might engage in would be a form of—might have anti-Semitic implications without their even realizing it.

I am—look, I have a broad-based agenda to work with other people and also to work with different elements in the State Department, whether it is the ambassador for religious freedom, whether it is the special envoy on Holocaust issues, whether it is the people on the various regional desks. There is a great deal of expertise there.

I think it is something that has to be stressed. This is not a joke and this is not a small group making a lot of noise and this is not special pleading. This is a serious issue. It is a serious issue even in and of itself. But it is also, as I said earlier, the canary in the coal mine. If you value democracy you got to hate antisemitism.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. And I want to underscore the point that you made with regard to the seriousness of it. As we have seen this alarming rise in antisemitism, we have also witnessed some who seek to politicize antisemitism by equating legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies with antisemitism. You have said that it is, quote, “dangerous” because it diminishes real antisemitism.

Can you elaborate on the important distinction that you were drawing there?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely. Criticism of Israeli policy is not antisemitism. If you want to hear criticism of Israeli policies, I suggest you seat yourself down in a cafe in Tel Aviv or in Jerusalem, whatever part of the country, depending who is in the Government. It is the national sport in Israel, second only maybe to soccer and maybe more than that.

I do not think any rational-minded person would think that criticism of Israel—Israeli policies is antisemitism. I do think there are certain things that cross the line into antisemitism and criticism can often cross the line.

In the IRA definition—it is a working definition, I think it is an exceptionally useful tool as such—it gives examples and it illustrates different kinds of things, some of which—a number of which have to do with Israel. It says these may, but not necessarily are, anti-Semitic. A lot depends on the context.

I think it is very important to be nuanced there because it is sort of Chicken Little and the sky is falling. If you call everything antisemitism, when you have a real act of antisemitism people are not paying attention. But when you have a real act of antisemitism, irrespective of where it is coming from, you have got to call it out.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Dr. Lipstadt.

And I see my time is running short. I will submit questions for the other witnesses for the record.

Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that the only other person at this point is Senator Shaheen.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations to each of our nominees, and thank you for your willingness to serve the country. I am actually going to begin with each of the ambassadorial nominees—Ms. Levine, Mr. Perry, and Ms. Dogu. Am I pronouncing your last name correctly?

Because I have been very concerned about anomalous health incidents, attacks by our embassy personnel around the world and—also known as Havana syndrome, and I want to ask each of you if you are familiar with that—I do not know whether to—I am not going to call it a disease, though I think there are health issues that result. But are you familiar with anomalous health incidents?

Ms. DOGU. Yes.

Ms. LEVINE. Yes.

Senator SHAHEEN. Yes? Mr. Perry?

Mr. PERRY. Yes.

Senator SHAHEEN. I want to ask you to commit, if confirmed, you will go to the ambassadorial seminar session that addresses AHIs and seek a classified briefing with the State Department so that should you have those attacks by your embassy personnel that you will be able to respond appropriately.

Ms. DOGU. Yes.

Ms. LEVINE. Yes.

Mr. PERRY. I will.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you all very much.

I would like to actually begin with you, Mr. Perry, and you, certainly, know firsthand the importance of the role that—the relationship between the United States and Jamaica.

One of the things that has been important in New Hampshire and so many other states have been the Jamaican workers who have come for a short period of time, often on H-2B visas, to work in various industries in New Hampshire—it is usually in the hospitality industry—who are very important to our workforce, and who then go home. They are able to send funds back to their families in Jamaica, and it is an important aspect of our workforce here and also in supporting families in the country.

Now, one of the important aspects of those H-2B visas is the role that the embassies play in ensuring that those interviews are held and that people can come to the United States.

I would ask you if you would commit to doing everything you can, if confirmed as ambassador, to ensure that those visa applicants are given due consideration and that that process works as smoothly as possible.

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

I do understand that the pandemic had impact on the efficiency of the services provided at the embassy in Kingston.

I do understand also that that is a very important program—the economic values to Jamaica and to our partnership—and I, certainly, commit to very strongly emphasizing and ensuring that our embassy takes actions in light of the improvements that we have been able to make with additional staff, I understand, to focus on addressing that particular visa situation because I know it is necessary and that it strengthens our partnership.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much. I really appreciate that, and any way that I or my office can be helpful in that process we, certainly, stand ready to do that.

Ambassador Dogu, I was in the Senate during the Obama administration when we saw a migration from Central America from—and Honduras was one of those three countries that had a very—tens of thousands of people migrating to come to the United States.

We saw a decline in that, I think, as the result of a number of factors, but now we are seeing it increase again. We have seen it increase again.

Can you speak to why you think we are seeing that cyclical increase and what policies we should be pursuing to help Hondurans be able to see a brighter future in their own country?

Ms. DOGU. Yes, Senator. Thank you for that very important question.

Obviously, there has been a historical large flow of migration from Honduras and it is something that the U.S. government has worked over a long period of time to try and address.

There have been sort of some periods with more investments and periods with less investment into Honduras. I think it is very important that it be consistent.

Clearly, the people are leaving the country—when you talk to them—for very fundamental reasons. They do not feel safe in their own country and they do not feel like they can find jobs to support their families.

Clearly, I think, as the U.S. ambassador my role would be to support the new government of Honduras' efforts to address these sorts of challenges. This is also a negative, in a sense, for the country. It is a brain drain as their young people flow north to the United States.

I think that we need to continue with our programs to focus on security. As I mentioned in my statement, I think it is also very important to focus on helping rebuild the economy.

They have really taken a large hit due to the pandemic and they have taken a large hit due to two very large hurricanes that went through there and, unfortunately, damaged some very critical parts of their country economically for them.

I think that being consistent and focusing, and now we have a new government, a new partner in Honduras. I think there are opportunities to really expand our efforts there, and I look forward to working with the team that is already on the ground in Honduras to do so, should I be confirmed.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My time is over.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Portman?

Senator PORTMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the hearing today and I appreciate just hearing about some improvements in Central America, which is always good news, given the impact it has on the people of those countries but also on our current situation with regard to illegal migration.

You are going to have your hands full, and it is really important that we do all we can to deal with the push factors in those countries.

My question, Mr. Chairman, is to Dr. Lipstadt.

You are about to fill a really important position, and with your background I think you will fill it well. I have had a number of constituents actually reach out on your behalf who have worked with you, and as the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, we have continued to advocate for something, I think, you are aware of, which is called the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

This is a critical source of funding for houses of worship, other nonprofits. It has been used primarily in the Jewish community as synagogues, community centers, schools, face increasing threats of antisemitism and other hate crimes, growing threats of violence. We just saw this recently with regard to the kidnapping in Texas.

As we continue to help protect targets of anti-Semitic violence, we have got to also combat the root causes, of course. How do you propose we address the root causes of antisemitism?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Thank you very much. I am well aware of that program. I have benefited from it in my own synagogue and other synagogues.

I was just talking to Ms. Eisen, who is here from Colleyville, Texas, and she was telling me when—that the synagogue needs a lot of repair after what happened. And I said, how do you pay for that, and she says, well, what insurance does not pay the government is helping us with. I do not know if it is through this specific program, but I was glad to hear that.

But back to the bigger issue of the root causes, antisemitism has the moniker of being the oldest or the longest hatred. It has been around for a very long time, and though I do not surprise easily, given my field of study, it is sometimes surprising that, as I said in my opening statement, but less than eight decades after the Holocaust that we should be facing antisemitism, many people predicted after the Holocaust that that was the end of antisemitism, and we are surprised, or as the British would say, gobsmacked, to the degree to which it is not.

I plan to become a thorn in the side of those who engage in antisemitism. There are those who are violent anti-Semites. We saw that in Texas. We saw that in the streets, as Senator Schumer said earlier, like Williamsburg. We saw that in Charlottesville. We saw that in Halle, Germany, and so many places throughout Europe.

But there are also the polite anti-Semites, the people who say things but it is just, I am just saying it, or do not think about the implications of what they say. I think all those people have to be called out.

And then governments have to be told that this is something we take very seriously and we will work with you on it. We will work with you on it. This is not a way of the Senate or the United States making a small group of Jews feel comfortable or feel happy.

But this is—we see this as a danger to the founding ideals of this republic. We see this as a sign of what could be, and we recognize and most of all, Senator, no genocide, no attack, begins with the attack, whether you are talking about a genocide in Europe, whether you are talking about a genocide in Rwanda, wherever you are.

It starts with words, and as some of your colleagues have mentioned, the Holocaust Museum—just go down the block, and you can see how it starts with words and then it escalates.

That does not mean it is always going to escalate to a holocaust. But if you are going to stop something, you stop it when—well before it is of that degree.

I plan to be as energetic as possible in fighting this. I never thought I would be in this position. But if I have the honor of being confirmed, I want to make a difference in that regard.

Senator PORTMAN. Great. Again, given your background, you are well qualified to take on that task, including the international task, and we want to work with you on that.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program did provide the synagogue in Texas with hardening, as I understand it, including cameras, which were very helpful with regard to the hostage taking, but also training.

And one thing we have found out is that although these grant programs have been effectively used in some areas of the country, other folks do not know about it—the Sikh community, the Muslim community, the Jewish community, the Christian community. It is it is available, broadly, for these kinds of threats.

We have introduced new legislation called the Pray Safe Act, which is to provide houses of worship at one centralized place where you can find out what the best practices are, find out what training is available.

This is with Senator Shaheen and Hassan, and my sense is that following the incident in Colleyville, Texas, this is more important than ever to let people know what is available to them. Have you looked at that Pray Safe Act?

Ms. LIPSTADT. I have looked at it. I have not studied it in depth because my remit, of course, if confirmed, will be abroad.

But the division between domestic and international anti-semitism is getting murkier. The terrorists, the kidnapper, the would-be murderer in Colleyville, was radicalized abroad and then he came here to do his handiwork. The divisions we used to draw are not as clear.

Clearly, my remit in the State Department is abroad. But you cannot—the hard lines, especially with social media, for better or for worse, it is harder to draw those lines.

My synagogue has benefited from this program and I have to tell you, speaking personally just for a second, I sat in synagogue about—I guess it was before COVID but about two years ago, where the rabbi and the members of the synagogue who were taking charge of this handed out pieces of paper showing us what door to exit, God forbid, there was something and telling parents—all parents but especially Jewish parents—do not go for your children. Your children will be brought to safety. A lot of good that is going to do, but go out—how to go out, where to rendezvous.

I have that piece of paper sitting on my desk. It is a reminder that it has come to me in Atlanta just as it has been coming to so many places in the rest of the world—Paris, Berlin, Halle, Belgium. Too many places today.

Senator PORTMAN. Pittsburgh Tree of Life.

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely, where the rabbi got training before and, of course, the people at Colleyville talked about the training and that would save their life.

Senator PORTMAN. And can save lives. As you say, this terrorist—and my time is expired. But just one sentence on that because this committee gets involved in these issues.

He came here on a visa from a country where we have a relationship where it is easy to have access to United States through visa programs. And, yet, the reports are that he had told the U.K. police and others that he wanted to—well, reports are that he had said that he wanted to kill Jews, and that this was reported to the U.K. police last year—these anti-Semitic threats—and yet the visa waiver program was available to him.

We have got to tighten up the visa waiver program from countries, even our great allies like the U.K., to be sure we are not allowing these terrorists in when we have information.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Kaine?

Senator KAINE. Exquisite timing, Mr. Chair. Impeccable.

I am very interested in asking questions about Honduras, where I lived in 1980 and '81, and I appreciate, Ambassador, you being here and your being poised for that position. I am sorry that I have been at other hearings and have not heard questions that you have already been asked.

But the tragedy of Honduras is—I lived there when it was a military dictatorship and things were awful. I knew people who were oppressed by the military. I knew some people who were killed by the military.

It is worse now. You think the move from a dictatorship to a democracy, just like magic, makes things better. I do not think that is the case, and I did not think I would ever say that.

But in recent years, becoming murder capital of the world, the control of narco traffickers, the deep, deep corruption by the past government especially but they were not unique in that, has created situations that are just so grim for Hondurans trying to live everyday life.

Some of the challenges they face are directly related to our pain. If the U.S. did not have such a tremendous hunger for illegal drugs and we are willing to send cash south to pull drugs north, many of the communities in Honduras—many the neighborhoods in Honduras and other countries would be a lot safer and more secure than they are. And so their pain is connected to our pain in ways that we have to own and try to be creative in solving.

Talk a little bit about the opportunities that the U.S. has with a new government in place. President Castro was inaugurated recently, a somewhat controversial election but, thank goodness, an election that compared to previous elections was widely viewed to be fair. It was called relatively quickly. There was a concession.

I know right around the time of the inauguration there was sort of a skirmish on the legislative front. We are used to that, too—skirmishes between an executive and the legislative branch.

But putting the past administration and Honduras in the rear-view mirror with its corruption, its abandonment of anti-corruption

and anti-transparency initiatives, its connection to drug trafficking in the United States, what would your intention be, should you be confirmed, in terms of trying to start a new chapter in the relationship that would be positive for the United States and positive for Honduras?

Ms. DOGU. Senator, thank you very much, not only for those remarks but for your long-term interest in Honduras and the importance of the U.S.-Honduran relationship. I agree with you completely on all of that.

I think that we do have a unique opportunity here. I mean, there is a new president. She was inaugurated just recently. She won in a very strong turnout by the population of Honduras.

She really comes into office representing the yearning desire for democracy and anti-corruption programs and for freedoms and security by the people of Honduras, and that is really powerful, I think, for an elected leader to arrive in that position.

And I know that the United States government—obviously, I am not involved in this yet, since I am pending confirmation and I am waiting for the Senate to decide if that is a good choice or not.

But there have been many senior officials, including recently the vice president, who traveled to Honduras to meet with her, and I think that there are a lot of areas that we have in common that we can work together, things that she wants to do to make things better in Honduras and things that we have recognized that are good for Honduras and are also good for the United States.

Obviously, we need to continue to help them address the security challenges that they have faced. Things are not good but things have been worse in that regard. Some of those violent numbers have come down. In some of the areas that we have invested in, we have seen some significant improvement there.

Clearly, they face strong economic challenges. There have been hurricanes that have destroyed the key parts of the country, in addition to just the normal pandemic challenges, and then historical challenges.

It is very important to work with them to do things like opening up their regulations to make it a better place for outside investors to come in.

Previously, Senator Rubio was talking about the possibility of nearshoring production. I think there is tremendous opportunity in all of that.

But it really is going to be up to both the president and her new team and the new congress to be able to get themselves organized and working together as a team to pass the legislation that is going to be needed to stabilize and open up the markets there.

And then the judiciary is going to play a key part, because if businesses do not feel confident in the fact that they can invest and that there is rule of law, they are still going to be reluctant to do that, even with the best of regulations.

I have a broad agenda in front of me, if I am lucky enough to be confirmed. I look forward to confronting those challenges. The team on the ground down there has been doing a great job already and I would just be a new part of this very strong team.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Ambassador Dogu.

One final point, Mr. Chair, quickly. I would hope you work together with our Vice President's office and others in the administration at this root causes analysis and you look at economic opportunities.

I sometimes think when we approach a problem like that we look at what company can we get to make a commitment to invest in Honduras, and that is hard to get a commitment from a company that is not already there.

I would really focus on the American companies that are already there. There is a quarter of a million textile workers in the Northern Triangle who work for American companies, usually using U.S. cotton to then make clothing. There is retail—American retail companies.

I would really listen to those who are already there and ask what could we do that would make you hire more people, that would make you expand. I think that that is usually a higher likely play than trying to get somebody new to come in who has never been there and does not really know the culture and the people.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Kaine.

The chair will recognize himself.

I would have left this untouched but the record cannot stand as it is. Senator Johnson called out the chair, saying that I have not apologized for the speech I made on the Senate floor, and I will not apologize for the speech I made on the Senate floor.

If we cannot call out comments for what they are, if we do not understand that words have power to them, sometimes very negative powerful consequences, then we can never challenge, whether it be antisemitism or racism or other elements.

My speech and the comments I made—and I think the comments that Dr. Lipstadt referenced to were about the comments, not about the person—and in that regard, when you say that you describe those who stormed the Capitol on January 6 as people who, quote, “truly respect law enforcement and love this country” but would worry if the mob had been Black Lives Matter protesters, I think that is deeply, deeply problematic.

I will ask unanimous consent to include my speech of that day in the record for context.

[The information referred to follows:]

Floor Remarks of Senator Robert Menendez, March 16, 2021

Congressional Record Vol. 167, No. 49

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I take no pleasure in coming to the floor today. We in the Senate take pride in our decorum and our sense of comity with each other, so much so that we often twist ourselves into pretzels to avoid saying anything that might be interpreted as a criticism of another Senator. Yet there comes a time when these verbal gymnastics simply won't do. You are either going to speak the truth or fail to do justice to the values you hold dear.

What one of our colleagues said last week about the events of January 6 was felt by many to be racist and hurtful—a stain on the office he is so fortunate to hold.

Look, I get that no one likes to be called racist, but sometimes there is just no other way to describe the use of bigoted tropes that for generations have threatened Black lives by stoking White fear of African Americans and Black men in particular.

On a radio show, our colleague explained that he never feared for his safety during the January 6 insurrection of the U.S. Capitol. But make no mistake, under different circumstances, he would have been afraid.

He said:

Now, had the tables been turned—now, Joe, this will get me in trouble—had the tables been turned and President Trump won the election and those were tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter and antifa protesters, I might have been a little concerned.

Is that not racism?

I don't think the Senator is ignorant of the fact that for centuries in this country, White supremacy has thrived on using fear to justify oppression, discrimination, and violence against people of color. I do, however, think my colleague may be ignorant of the pain caused by his comments and unaware of how they compound the trauma that so many still feel in the wake of the events of January 6.

Because I do not think I can do justice to that pain, I want to share with you an email I received this weekend. It is from one of the most devoted public servants I have ever had the pleasure of working with, an African-American member of my staff. His name is Keith Roachford. He has devoted nearly three and one-half decades to serving the people of New Jersey in Congress and his community as a faithful churchgoer and Boy Scout leader.

It reads:

Senator,

I would not normally send you an email like this but I am at a loss of how to express the outrage and hurt I am feeling from the comments made by Senator Johnson that he would have been more afraid on January 6th if the insurrectionists would have been from Black Lives Matter.

I am blessed to be on your staff and have had the opportunity to serve as a staff member in the NJ delegation for 34 years, but this is the most painful thing I have ever heard being said by a U.S. Senator.

I could not imagine that the horrible and painful events from [January] 6th could be replicated in a statement from a sitting member of the Senate.

However, Johnson's comment is worse than the image of the insurrectionists walking through the Capitol building with the confederate flag.

He is perpetrating the racist trope that the country should fear black people.

I have experienced what it is like to have a taxi cab pass you by in order to pick up white passengers who are further down the block of where you are standing.

Nothing can describe the feeling when you have entered a store and having store clerks watch your every step while shopping.

Sandy—

That is his wife—

and I have had the conversations with our sons when they were young about how to enter a store; not look suspicious; keep your hands out of your pockets until you make your purchase; or how to respond and talk to police officers in any interaction.

I have had the difficult conversation of explaining to a young black scouter in our scout troop why a white campground store clerk accused him of not paying for an item because he was black.

[This] type of hate speech is [not] new. The hardest part of what he said is that in 2021, a United States Senator would so freely express this type of hate out loud.

I am so grateful for our officers who endured so many injuries on [January] 6th, and I pray that they will recover physically and mentally.

They are going through so much right now, I feel guilty that my email to you might sound shallow because of the pain they are trying to overcome.

I understand that the Senate works best when both sides can find common ground, but how do [you] really reach common ground when [such views can be held]?

Again, I am sorry for reaching out late on Saturday evening, but I needed to share this with you.

Keith.

To read these pained words both broke my heart and boiled my blood. Thousands of people of color serve in the U.S. Capitol workforce. They are legislative staffers like Keith and Capitol Police officers and maintenance workers, cafeteria staff, and

so much more. I should not have to stand here and remind anyone that many of them feared for their lives on January 6. But not Senator Johnson. He felt no fear. He wasn't afraid because, and I quote:

I knew those are people that love this country, that truly respect law enforcement, would never do anything to break the law, so I wasn't concerned.

People who love this country do not desecrate our most sacred democratic institutions and display symbols of racial hatred like the Confederate flag in the halls of Congress. People who respect law enforcement do not assault Capitol Police officers, beat them within inches of death, and hurl ugly epithets at officers of color. And people who would never do anything to break the law would not try to overturn the rule of law, plot to kill elected officials, and stop the peaceful transfer of power as instructed by the Constitution of the United States.

Now, I know what some rightwing media pundits and some of my Republican colleagues will say. They say it every time they are asked to accept some responsibility for perpetuating the lies told by President Trump that inspired the violent events of January 6.

They say: What about Black Lives Matter?

They say: Well, what about it?

Well, I say: Well, what about it?

The violent picture they paint of this movement could not be more divorced from reality. At this point, several reputable studies have confirmed that the protests launched in the wake of George Floyd's chilling murder were overwhelmingly peaceful. I repeat: The Black Lives Matter movement is overwhelmingly peaceful. I know many people don't care about facts these days, but it is the truth.

One study out of Harvard University analyzed 7,305 Black Lives Matter protests. The conclusion? Allow me to quote Professor Erica Chenoweth.

She said:

Only 3.7 percent of the protests involved property damage or [some form of] vandalism. Some portion of these involved neither police nor protesters, but people engaging in vandalism or looting alongside the protests. In short, our data suggest that 96.3 percent of events involved no property damage or police injuries, and in 97.7 percent of events, no injuries were reported among participants, bystanders or police.

Likewise, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project—an organization I might add is partially funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations—examined 7,750 different Black Lives Matter demonstrations across the Nation last summer. They found just 3 percent of those protests associated with any violence or property destruction whatsoever. They also concluded that police departments “disproportionately used force while intervening in demonstrations associated with the [Black Lives Matter] movement relative to other types of demonstrations.”

Indeed, on January 6, as we waited for hours for backup from the National Guard and other law enforcement agencies to come to the aid of Congress, I know that I am not the only one who could not help but think of the violent, government-sanctioned crackdowns that met Black Lives Matter protesters last summer.

The bottom line is that these lies casting Black Lives Matter as violent have already done real damage. They have convinced millions of Americans that they should fear those who march under the banner of this movement for justice, when really it is the resurgence of violent White supremacy that should be Americans' real cause for alarm.

Indeed, last October, the Department of Homeland Security issued a report confirming that White supremacists pose the most lethal domestic terror threat to the American people. Research from the Center for Strategic and International Studies finds that White supremacists and their sympathizers carried out two-thirds of terrorist plots and attacks in 2020.

In the weeks since January 6, we have learned that far-right extremist groups that regularly preach White supremacy, such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys, played a major role in plotting and executing the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Every Member of this body owes their life to the sacrifices made that afternoon by Capitol Police officers, including officers of color. At least 100 officers were physically injured in the January 6 attack. One officer, a veteran and fellow New Jerseyan named Brian Sicknick, later succumbed to the injuries he sustained. Two others subsequently committed suicide. Hundreds of officers now carry with them invisible scars from the trauma they endured that day—scars that may not fade for years or even decades.

For one of our colleagues to cast those who attacked the Capitol as harmless patriots while stroking fear of Black Americans is like rubbing salt in an open wound.

Everybody in this body should know that when you perpetuate such racist tropes, you contribute to a culture that gives people permission to treat Black Americans as suspicious and their lives as expendable. We in the Senate are supposed to hold ourselves to a higher standard. We are supposed to advance America's long march toward a more perfect Union, not coddle and cater to those who would take us backwards, and we are supposed to stand up for the truth. That is what brought me to the floor today.

I hope Members of this body on both sides of the aisle will join me in making sure that we do not debase the institution and the people we are called to serve—all the people—for whom so much pain has existed for years and exists still today.

With that, I yield the floor.

The CHAIRMAN. I think it is also—without objection—I think it is also worth pointing out that the rioters on that day, literally, wore and bore Nazi symbolism, including t-shirts that said, 6MWE, which stands for 6 million—those who perished in the Holocaust—was not enough, and a t-shirt saying Camp Auschwitz on one side and on the other side of that t-shirt Staff, as well as Confederate flags and nooses.

Maybe the Senator was not afraid for his life but every Jewish person in the Capitol, certainly, had a reason to be concerned for their lives. It is in that context that I made my remarks, and let me close on this.

I have a record replete of nominees under the previous administration who made incredibly outrageous statements, and yet in each and every context they were confirmed, and some of them really did not have the background to be confirmed for the positions they were confirmed to.

In this case, we have a nominee that is impeccable in terms of their knowledge of the subject matter, probably not just the U.S. but a global expert and scholar on the question of antisemitism.

I think if you cannot call out an anti-Semitic trope or prejudice, how in God's name are you going to do this job? Your proven history of fighting against antisemitism here in the United States and around the world, I think, makes you uniquely qualified for this position.

I just want to ask you two questions, Dr. Lipstadt. If confirmed, will you continue to call out all incidents of antisemitism, regardless of where these prejudices emanate from in the global community?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely, because after I stop this position I still have to live with myself.

The CHAIRMAN. And regarding responsibilities, do you understand the difference between making comments as a private citizen versus as a public servant?

Ms. LIPSTADT. Absolutely, and I have learned a lot and already have begun an education with would-be colleagues at the State Department. That may be the hardest part of this task. But yes, I understand the difference.

The CHAIRMAN. And do you commit to abide by the State Department rules for social media comments that you make in your official capacity, guidance that was, I would note, routinely ignored and flouted by the last administration?

Ms. LIPSTADT. A hundred and ten percent.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

With that, I have questions for the record for the other nominees. I do not want you to think you are not the object of my affection. But you are all going to serve in important positions and I look forward to your responses as it relates to those questions and the questions of other members of the committee. They will be open to the close of business tomorrow, Wednesday.

I would urge members who have questions for the record to submit them. I would also urge the nominees to give significant responses to those questions so that we can consider your nominations before a business committee.

And with the thanks of the committee, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:43 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO DR. DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. If confirmed, what is your main priority as Ambassador-at-Large?

Answer. If confirmed, my main priority would be to fight Jew-hatred wherever it exists globally, irrespective of where it comes from. I believe we should condemn and counter antisemitism wherever and whenever it occurs, both online and offline, whether as hate speech, Holocaust distortion and denial, or in other forms. We should also counter antisemitism by promoting tolerance and inclusion, including through education. We need to work with our international partners to ensure the security of their Jewish communities, resources and training for law enforcement personnel to address hate crimes and, ideally, the establishment of national coordinators for combating antisemitism.

We also need to reinforce efforts to foster a common understanding of the challenge. If confirmed, I would try to help our interlocutors understand what Jew hatred is, what it is not, and why it is so pernicious. One of the ways we can do that is by encouraging other countries and international bodies to embrace and apply the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, inclusive of its examples, which is an exceptionally useful diagnostic tool.

Question. If confirmed, how do you plan to engage with partners and allies on combatting antisemitism globally?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to forge coalitions with other governments, international bodies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to work across diverse communities and among faiths to combat antisemitism globally. If confirmed, I will work closely with other special envoys and coordinators combating antisemitism and our partners and allies in multilateral fora such as the OSCE, EU, and the UN.

If confirmed, in addition to working closely with partners in Europe, the Western Hemisphere, and around the world, I would also look forward to exploring opportunities for engagement with U.S. allies and partners in the Middle East. The Abraham Accords have helped build momentum for exciting initiatives relating to interfaith dialogue and combating ignorance, intolerance, and hate, including antisemitism.

Question. How will you de-conflict your work with the Ambassador-at-Large for religious freedom?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to work closely and seamlessly with the Ambassador-at-Large (AAL) for International Religious Freedom and his team to advance the fight against antisemitism and other forms of religious discrimination around the world. I recognize that my partnership with the AAL and his team will be vital as we work with our embassies and consulates to monitor and combat antisemitism.

If confirmed, I intend to have regular meetings with the AAL and to encourage my staff to consult often with the experts in the Office of International Religious Freedom, as I understand they already do. The issues we would collectively address

are interconnected and require collaboration to optimize coalition building and engagement. One example of a religious freedom issue on which I would work closely with the AAL concerns proposed or enacted limitations on religious practices of animal slaughter and non-medical circumcision, which can directly affect the viability of Jewish, Muslim, and other religious communities.

Question. If confirmed, how will you de-conflict but provide specialized assistance to the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to work closely and collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) and the DRL team to advance the fight against antisemitism around the world. I recognize that my partnership with DRL will be vital as we work through our embassies and consulates to monitor and address antisemitism and other issues of human rights concern. If confirmed, I intend to have regular meetings with DRL leaders and experts and to encourage my staff to consult often with DRL experts, as I understand they already do.

Question. Please describe how your office, if confirmed, will contribute to the efforts of the office for International Religious Freedom to produce annual country reports on religious freedom. Do you believe there should be annual country reports on antisemitism and efforts to combat antisemitism? If so, why? If not, why?

Answer. I understand that the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism works closely and collaboratively with the Office of International Religious Freedom and has important input into the International Religious Freedom Report, as well as the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which both address antisemitism as a significant issue.

If confirmed, my office will continue to provide invaluable input into those reports, as is statutorily required by the Global Antisemitism Review Act of 2004, which would not necessitate the creation of another reporting process to which the Department and U.S. embassies and consulates the world over would have to direct additional resources. That said, I commit to consult with the committee on best approaches to combat antisemitism.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues (SEHI) on the continuing desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to work closely and collaboratively with the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues (SEHI) on issues of mutual concern including the continuing desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe. I understand that the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism works closely with SEHI on areas where Holocaust issues and antisemitism overlap, such as historical distortion, Holocaust denial, and rehabilitation of controversial wartime figures. I understand that SEHI also advocates for the preservation of Jewish cultural history in Europe, including cemeteries.

If confirmed, I will coordinate closely with SEHI and the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad on these issues and condemn desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe.

Question. It has recently been suggested to us that the Government of Lithuania may look to resolve the dispute over the Snipsikes Cemetery in Vilnius by converting the Palace of Concerts and Sports into a Holocaust Museum. How do you believe the Jewish communities in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere, will respond to this proposal?

Answer. I understand that the Biden administration's policy is that any action taken with respect to Jewish heritage sites should include government consultations with Jewish groups and other community stakeholders to ensure that sites are treated with the proper respect and consideration of their historic importance. If confirmed, I will reach out to Jewish communities to ensure their views are heard.

Question. Do you believe that this proposal is an acceptable and sensitive solution to this issue?

Answer. I understand that the administration has not yet seen a formal proposal from the Government of Lithuania for this site. As a result, the administration cannot comment on whether it is an appropriate solution. If confirmed, I will engage with appropriate officials with the goal of obtaining an acceptable and sensitive solution.

Question. If, as many suspect, Russia invades Ukraine in the coming weeks, many unfortunate issues may arise that find themselves in your purview. The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, and some other prominent defenders of Ukrainian sovereignty (like oligarch and former governor of Dnipro region, Igor Kolomoisky)

are Jewish. Do you have any concern that their origins may precipitate violence specifically against the Jews of Ukraine, or Jewish institutions?

Answer. I understand the administration is deeply concerned about all aspects of Russia further invading Ukraine, which would have dire humanitarian and human rights implications. That is why deterrence efforts are so critical, and why the administration continues to urge Russia to choose dialogue and de-escalation. I understand the administration is in close contact with members of the Jewish community in Ukraine and associated Jewish groups in the United States and is continuing to monitor the situation as events develop. At this point, I am not aware of any particular threats to the Jewish community beyond those posed to the Ukrainian population in general if Russia were to invade.

Question. Ukraine holds many sites that are both religiously and historically important to Jewish communities in Ukraine and around the world. What do you believe can or should be done by the U.S. and its allies to protect those sites in the event of military action in Ukraine?

Answer. Destruction of cultural property during armed conflict is an attack on the identity, history, and dignity of the communities it represents. If confirmed, I will work with Department colleagues, including the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, others in the U.S. Government, and overseas partners to speak out against such actions. I will also commit to using diplomatic, economic, and political tools to work on preventing destruction of religiously and historically important sites in Ukraine.

Question. What is your understanding of morale in the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. It is my understanding that morale in the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism has been high over the past year, owing to the effective interim leadership of Senior Official Kara McDonald (a career foreign service officer serving as a deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor) and to the quality of the personnel she has recruited to staff the office.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale in the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. If confirmed, I will personally meet with each member of the team during my first days on the job to glean staff members' opinions on the office's priorities and operations, including areas of room for improvement. If confirmed, I will maintain an open-door policy whereby any team member can bring concerns or recommendations to me directly. Open and frequent communication is key to fostering a productive, efficient, and inclusive workplace.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. If confirmed, I will move quickly and decisively to undertake a thorough review of where our mission currently stands, including by consulting with a broad array of Department of State and other U.S. Government stakeholders active in the fight against global antisemitism. After consulting with key members of my team and relevant senior Department of State principals, I will lay out and clearly explain my reasons for any proposed changes to the Office's activities or new areas of emphasis. I will also champion an office-wide system of continuous feedback, assessment, and recalibration to ensure buy-in and sustained good counsel. Finally, if confirmed, I will work not only to create a unified mission and vision for the office, but I will also commit to consult with Congress on the mission and work of the office.

Question. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I consistently seek to empower, to listen, and to learn from the various experts on my team; to lead by example; and to ensure clear, two-way communication. I always endeavor to ensure my teams are diverse and inclusive and that there is equity in the work and in our hiring and evaluation processes. I also seek to give my team members wide latitude and autonomy to take ownership of initiatives and make key decisions while also being a resource to them in case a new situation or any doubts arise. I believe professional training and development are essential, and, if confirmed, I intend to encourage team members to avail themselves of all relevant training and professional development opportunities at the Department of State. Finally, I want to note my appreciation for the very capable interim leadership of Senior Official Kara McDonald of this office, which I know, if I am confirmed, will have paved the way for a smooth transition for the entire team.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

Answer. Absolutely not. I firmly believe it is unacceptable, not to mention decidedly unproductive, to berate anyone under any circumstance. If confirmed, I will pledge to only provide respectful, clear, and constructive feedback to team members and will expect my managers to do the same and hold accountable anyone who does not.

Question. How do you envision your relationship with your deputy?

Answer. If confirmed, I expect to continue to enjoy a close and collegial relationship with the current Deputy Special Envoy or any other deputy. I have known the current Deputy Special Envoy, Aaron Keyak, for some time, during which we have developed an excellent professional relationship. I have had the good fortune to collaborate with him on a number of projects, including with respect to combating antisemitism, prior to his joining the Department of State in late 2021. I know, respect, and trust Mr. Keyak and look forward to working day in and day out with him on fighting global antisemitism, if given the opportunity.

Question. How do you envisage your leadership relationship with other bureau leaders whose portfolios may intersect with yours?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to work closely and seamlessly with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and other assistant secretaries of state to advance the fight against antisemitism around the world. I recognize that my relationships with the regional assistant secretaries, notably the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, will be vital as we work through our embassies and consulates in Europe and elsewhere to monitor and combat antisemitism. If confirmed, I also intend to partner with the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues to advance the United States' work to push back against Holocaust denial and distortion.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to delegate much of the day-to-day management of the office to the Deputy Special Envoy, Aaron Keyak, consistent with the approach of most of my predecessors. I will also call on Mr. Keyak to serve as my surrogate when I am unavailable for certain official duties.

Question. Do you believe that it is important to provide subordinates with accurate, constructive feedback on their performance in order to encourage improvement and reward those who most succeeded in their roles?

Answer. I firmly believe in providing clear, constructive, and respectful feedback on performance to every member of my team. Similarly, if confirmed, I look forward to receiving constructive feedback from my team members on my own performance as well. Providing thoughtful feedback to subordinates not only encourages better performance, but also engenders trust and mutual respect.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to each employee in my chain of command to improve performance and I will ensure high achievers are routinely rewarded for their contributions.

Question. What is the public diplomacy environment like around the world in relation to the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. In many parts of the world, the environment is challenging. Antisemitic sentiment runs high in many countries. Even in countries where the United States engages productively with governments on this issue, conspiracy theories about Jews and overall antisemitism are on the rise, notably throughout Europe. Malign actors use social media and other online platforms to spread their antisemitic messages with unprecedented speed and reach, including in some cases speech that may incite violence. If confirmed, I look forward to partnering with public diplomacy and other experts at the Department of State to enhance our strategies for condemning and countering antisemitic rhetoric while respecting freedom of expression, including by providing accurate counter-messaging in the online space.

Question. What public diplomacy challenges do U.S. diplomats face in relation to the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. As I note in the answer above, the public diplomacy environment overseas is challenging when it comes to fighting the scourge of antisemitism. U.S. diplomats in many countries around the world contend with entrenched antisemitic views among government officials, within society at large, in local media, and online. If confirmed, I look forward to partnering with the public diplomacy and other experts at the Department of State to provide our forward-deployed diplomats with tools to undermine conspiracy theories about Jews, to advance messaging on interfaith dialogue and harmony, and to condemn and counter antisemitic rhetoric and narratives.

Question. How do you balance the importance of Main State versus the in-country mission when it comes to tailoring public diplomacy messages for foreign audiences?

Answer. While recognizing the importance of sound, coherent messaging being formulated at the headquarters level, I also appreciate that the public diplomacy environment for combating antisemitism and promoting religious freedom varies from country to country—and often with regard to different populations within the same country. As such, I believe that U.S. embassies and consulates play an important role in shaping, prioritizing, and sequencing public messaging and social media campaigns on these issues.

Question. Regarding “Anomalous health incidents.” If confirmed, do you commit to taking this threat seriously?

Answer. Yes. I take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people who will work with me and, if confirmed, and I will ensure that any reported incident under my watch will receive an appropriate medical and security response. Secretary Blinken prioritizes the Department’s response to AHIs, setting clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department’s communication with its workforce and providing care for affected employees and family members.

Question. Regarding “Anomalous health incidents.” If confirmed, do you commit to talking as openly as you can to the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to engage my team members on this issue as openly as possible. I take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people who will work with me. I commit to working with health and security officials and other parties as recommended.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO DR. DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. Do you recognize that, if confirmed, your personal statements and tweets, even if not made in an official setting, may be perceived to be the views of the United States?

Answer. Yes, I recognize that, if confirmed to this position, my words both official and unofficial will carry significant diplomatic importance to the interests of the United States. As such, if confirmed, I commit to following all guidance from the Department of State regarding diplomatic conduct and Public Diplomacy efforts, including guidance as it pertains to the use of social media.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to uphold the non-partisan nature of the position you hold?

Answer. As I said in my hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am an equal opportunity foe of antisemitism. If confirmed, I pledge to call out global antisemitism wherever it is found. It is my firm belief that those who are only interested in finding antisemitism—or any form of prejudice—on the opposite end of the political spectrum are more interested in weaponizing antisemitism than fighting it. If confirmed, I commit to upholding and cementing the nonpartisan nature of my position, as a nonpartisan approach is fundamental to meaningfully combating antisemitism.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to not making statements unbecoming of a public official that speaks on behalf of all Americans?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to meeting the exceptionally high standards required for the words and conduct of an official representative of the United States, in engagements both public and private, overseas and domestic.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to making yourself, and your staff, available to provide briefings as requested to my office and others?

Answer. If confirmed, I pledge to make myself and my staff available to provide briefings to your office and to others, both upon request as well as proactively on matters of significance.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Question. On March 9, 2021, the U.S. Embassy in Honduras issued a disaster declaration in response to crisis levels of food insecurity. The disaster declaration for Honduras was reissued for FY22 due to unmet needs caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota and the impacts of the pandemic. In recent weeks, I led a letter, alongside 32 of my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, calling for Temporary Protected Status redesignations for Honduras—as well as for Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

- Can I have your commitment that you will independently assess country conditions and make a recommendation to the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security during your first 100 days as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to prioritizing the Department’s understanding of basic humanitarian needs in Honduras during my first 100 days and to considering, as appropriate, the wide variety of tools available through the Department and the interagency, including possible Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation.

Question. Will you directly brief my office on your findings?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with the Department to provide briefings to members of congress and staff as requested.

Question. What steps will you take to address mis- and disinformation about TPS and U.S. immigration policy so that the administration can do right by the people in Central America while also ensuring that we prevent mass movements to the border of people who would never qualify for TPS?

Answer. Interrupting the messaging of unscrupulous actors peddling false information about U.S. immigration policy is a top priority for addressing migration challenges in the region and at our border. The Department strengthened its outreach to communities within migrant-sending countries, including Honduras, and simultaneously intensified outreach to Central American diaspora communities within the United States, using media interviews and social media amplification to provide prompt, accurate information about TPS. We monitor dis- and misinformation about U.S. immigration policy and push out tailored responses with accurate information, including through support to our international partners to develop targeted community-based messaging campaigns. If confirmed, I will support ongoing programs through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), and others that already strive to target the communities most likely to send irregular migrants to the United States and encourage my teams to work together on creative and effective messaging efforts. I will also remain closely engaged with the Department and the interagency on stakeholders’ outreach efforts to reduce pull factors for irregular migration.

Question. Ambassador Dogu, former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez has been directly implicated in significant drug trafficking activities. Last week, I wrote to Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen, urging them to publicly hold Hernandez accountable for his criminal actions by revoking his visa and designating him as a “significant foreign narcotics trafficker” under the Kingpin Act.

- If confirmed as our next ambassador to Tegucigalpa, what additional steps would you take to hold Hernandez accountable? Additionally, what measures will you apply to Honduran officials that place their participation in drug trafficking and criminal activity above the interests of the Honduran people?

Answer. On February 7, the Department publicly announced former President Hernandez’s inclusion on the United States’ Corrupt and Undemocratic Actors list, under Section 353 of the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which generally makes the listed individuals ineligible for visas and admission to the United States. The Department included Hernandez on the list on July 1,

2021. The Department employs multiple tools to promote rule of law and fight impunity around the world and seeks constantly to address the challenges posed by the evolving nature of transnational organized crime and drug traffickers.

In addition to the U.S. Government's existing tools, we publicly committed to supporting President Castro's request to the United Nations for support in establishing an anticorruption mission. We already collected best practices and lessons learned from anticorruption commissions throughout the region and will work with the U.N. and Honduras to ensure new efforts incorporate these standards and build off existing anticorruption mechanisms already working in Honduras. If confirmed, I will also continue to advance these policies by supporting the work of other agencies responsible for pursuing justice in these cases.

Question. I am very concerned about directed energy attacks on U.S. Government personnel (so-called Anomalous Health Incidents). Ensuring the safety and security of our personnel abroad falls largely on individual Chiefs of Mission and the response of officers at post. It is imperative that any individual who reports a suspected incident be responded to promptly, equitably, and compassionately.

- Do you agree these incidents must be taken seriously, and pose a threat to the health of U.S. personnel?

Answer. Yes. I take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people who will work with me, and, if confirmed, I will ensure that any reported incident that falls under my Chief of Mission authority will receive an appropriate medical and security response. Secretary Blinken prioritizes the Department's response to AHIs, setting clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department's communication with its workforce and providing care for affected employees and family members.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that any reported incident is treated seriously and reported quickly through the appropriate channels, and that any affected individuals receive prompt access to medical care?

Answer. Yes. I will do everything possible to ensure that employees who report a possible AHI receive immediate and appropriate attention and care and the incident is reported through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to meeting with medical staff and the RSO at post to discuss any past reported incidents and ensure that all protocols are being followed?

Answer. Yes. Again, if confirmed, I will take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people working at U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa. I commit to working with health and security officials and other parties as recommended.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. How would you characterize the incoming Honduran Government's views of the United States?

Answer. The Department invested in developing a productive relationship with the Castro administration, beginning during the campaign. U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa personnel met with President Castro's transition team, and the U.S. Government sent high-level interlocutors, including Vice President Harris, to demonstrate U.S. support for some of President Castro's initiatives, including on anticorruption. President Castro will not fully align with the United States on every policy issue, but she repeatedly stressed her hope that the United States will remain Honduras' preferred partner on her top priorities. If confirmed, I will strive to maintain that status as Honduras' preferred partner by working together on our shared priorities, including countering corruption and drug trafficking, strengthening democratic institutions, rebuilding the economy, improving security, and increasing respect for human rights, all of which will contribute to decreasing irregular migration.

Question. Please describe the top U.S. law enforcement priorities in Honduras.

Answer. Honduras remains a significant transshipment point for drug traffickers and transnational criminal organizations, and Honduras is both a source and transit country for irregular migration. U.S. law enforcement policy takes a broad approach to combating drug trafficking, including through training and professionalization of Honduran police services, strengthening efforts to humanely manage migration, including identifying unaccompanied children in need of child welfare services,

strengthening the rule of law and the judiciary, and developing economic opportunities.

If confirmed, I would look forward to cooperating with President Castro on her push to improve citizen security, including by increasing respect for human rights, improving mechanisms for combating sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthening relations between police services and local communities.

Question. Political disagreements in the National Congress of Honduras have ignited a legitimacy crisis with potential long-term negative consequences for governability in the country.

- Is the current Honduran legislature functioning under a constitutional framework? If not, what needs to happen to achieve that?

Answer. The political crisis in the Honduran National Congress tarnished the otherwise strong start of the Castro administration. Civil society, government actors, and others question the constitutionality of the claims to the presidency of Luis Redondo, the declared president of the congress, and Redondo passed an amnesty law for former President Manuel Zelaya's supporters without the full support of the congress. While the matter is internal and for Honduras to resolve, U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa and Honduras' bilateral and multilateral partners have offered Honduras support in resolving the crisis since the beginning. Additionally, the Department communicated its concerns regarding the need to reinforce, not weaken, democratic institutions and rule of law through Embassy and Washington channels. If confirmed, I will work with the Department, the interagency, and the U.S. Congress to ensure we deploy the appropriate tools for addressing this crisis.

Question. How would you describe the administration's views on the legality of measures adopted by the National Congress of Honduras led by Mr. Luis Redondo and assembled on January 21?

Answer. The Biden-Harris administration remains troubled by concerns that the Honduran National Congress has acted beyond its authority in enacting significant laws before ensuring the president of the congress had full authority to do so. If confirmed, I would work closely with the Honduran Government, civil society, and international partners to help ensure respect for democratic institutions and processes as well as the separation of powers.

Question. Please describe the importance of the 2019 Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA) with Honduras in incentivizing the Government to adhere to international commitments to increase asylum capacity.

- In your opinion, did the administration wrongfully terminate the agreement in 2021 before it had the opportunity to take effect and have meaningful results?

Answer. The 2019 Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA) shifted the burden of the U.S. asylum system to other countries in the region, including Honduras. I remain unaware of any way in which the ACA incentivized Honduras to build up its asylum capacity. Rather, its implementation would have placed undue pressure on the country's nascent asylum system without providing sufficient time or resources to build domestic capacity. Independent of the ACA framework, the United States continues to support Honduran efforts to build its asylum capacity in a sustainable manner, as well as to respond to the protection needs of internally displaced Hondurans, in line with Honduras' national action plan commitments under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions framework; better known by its Spanish acronym, MIRPS. The Biden-Harris administration believes there are more suitable ways to confront regional protection and irregular migration challenges.

Question. If confirmed, would you advocate for the U.S. to leverage existing bilateral extradition treaties and Palermo protocols to prosecute transnational criminal actors who facilitate human smuggling and human trafficking?

Answer. As a party to the U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional protocols, Honduras has obligations to criminalize human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Honduran law criminalizes all forms of trafficking in persons and the Government maintains a specialized anti-trafficking prosecution unit. If confirmed, I will support U.S. efforts to build the skills of officials in this unit and will engage the Honduran Government to allocate increased resources to augment and sustain the unit's capacity. I will also support the work of Joint Task Force Alpha, the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Homeland Security partnership to combat dangerous human smuggling and trafficking activity in Honduras and elsewhere in the region by working with our partners to increase both U.S. and foreign prosecutions of such criminal actors and orga-

nizations, including by pursuing extraditions in appropriate cases consistent with U.S. law and our treaty obligations.

Question. The Central American Agreement for Free Mobility (CA-4) requires citizens from Central America to show only a legal identification document, not a passport or visa to enter other participating countries. This has effectively placed all immigration enforcement north on Mexico and the U.S. If confirmed, would you commit to advocating for adoption and implementation of stronger visa requirements among the CA-4 countries?

Answer. The Central American Agreement for Free Mobility (CA-4) significantly improves regional integration. The agreement has served as a linchpin of improving economic ties in the region. It has documentation requirements that, if enforced, should assist in deterring irregular migration. If confirmed, I will continue to encourage these countries to humanely enforce their respective immigration laws and policies, including enforcing document requirements under CA-4, and to secure their borders.

Question. In the State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons report, Honduras was identified as a Tier 2 state, due to overall increasing efforts to eliminate human trafficking, but failed in key areas, like lowered penalties for trafficking crimes and fewer victims identified in the reporting year.

- If confirmed, how will you work with the Honduran Government to address these issues?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work across the interagency and with all the tools available to me to address shortcomings in Honduras' anti-trafficking efforts identified in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. In addition to the work we do to train and professionalize police services and to improve identification and assistance to trafficking victims among migrants, I would ask the Embassy team to engage with the congress, government and non-governmental service providers, the judicial system, and law enforcement in Honduras to improve the local response to criminals preying on vulnerable communities.

Question. The State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has several successful programs in the region that could be beneficial in Honduras and within the hemisphere. If confirmed, how will you bolster these efforts with the office to combat and monitor trafficking in persons?

Answer. If confirmed, I will seek to engage the U.S. Government to respond to our priorities in Honduras, including requesting programs through our Trafficking in Persons Office and coordinating across the interagency to integrate anti-trafficking components into related programs. I will build on the Trafficking in Persons Office's current efforts in Honduras to enhance victim protection services and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and public officials at the local and national level to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes. I will encourage the Embassy team to think creatively about responding to local challenges, and I will support outreach within the region to identify best practices and lessons learned in implementing programs to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

Question. If confirmed, how would you and your mission work with the Honduran Government to improve migration processing, including asylum claims?

Answer. I remain committed, if confirmed, to supporting continuing collaboration with our Honduran counterparts both bilaterally as well as through regional fora such as the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (or MIRPS in Spanish)—for which Honduras holds the 2022 presidency pro tempore—and the Regional Conference on Migration to advance shared strategic solutions to humanely manage migration in the region. These strategies include enforcing borders and immigration laws while ensuring access to protection for those in need; enhancing lawful migration pathways including labor opportunities; and combatting migrant smuggling and human trafficking. In addition to coordinating through multilateral fora, I will support the Department's ongoing efforts through international organization and NGO partners to help the Honduran Government build its capacity to register and process asylum claims, respond to the needs of internally displaced persons, and humanely enforce its borders. These efforts include technical advisory assistance, support for staff, training, equipment, and other needs related to sustainably increasing migration management capacities.

Question. Please explain your understanding of China's presence and interests in Honduras.

Answer. The People's Republic of China (PRC) attempted to make inroads in Honduras with vaccine diplomacy. On June 1, 2021, former President Juan Orlando

Hernandez announced he would open a commercial office in Shanghai to facilitate the sale and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. Ultimately, Honduras never opened the office as supply urgency abated. During her campaign, President Castro suggested she would consider switching Honduras' diplomatic ties from Taipei to Beijing, but she appears to have reconsidered that position. The PRC has some investments in Honduras but does not have a high profile. If confirmed, I commit to working diligently to expose the risks associated with ties to Beijing and the benefits associated with continued diplomatic ties with Taipei.

Question. Honduras is one of the last 14 countries to maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Honduran President Castro vowed during her campaign to switch the country's recognition to China; however, the new Government noted it would maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Honduran Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina stated last week that Honduras' relationship with Taiwan will remain fluid.

- If confirmed, what action would you take to encourage Honduras to maintain its recognition of Taiwan?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to highlighting the value of strong ties to Taiwan. The United States, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan, works with Taiwan's overseas offices to identify and promote opportunities for cooperation. I would encourage my team to continue working with local partners on areas for Taiwan's cooperation with Honduras and to develop creative opportunities for Taiwan to raise its profile with the Honduran Government and people.

Question. In 2008, the Chinese company Huawei opened an office in Honduras, and it's now the main provider for telecommunications companies in the country. How would you urge Honduras to choose trustworthy suppliers for their critical infrastructure/telecom?

Answer. The United States supports efforts to ensure countries, companies, and citizens realize the promise of 5G wireless networks, and we encourage governments and telecom operators to prioritize security when building their broadband cellular network infrastructure. We welcome collaboration with allies and other partners to ensure our shared security in a 5G future and beyond. Each country must make a sovereign decision about its national and economic security. The Biden-Harris administration remains committed to ensuring U.S. telecommunications networks do not use equipment from untrusted vendors. Countries and their citizens need to be able to trust that 5G equipment and software will not introduce risks that threaten national security, economic interests, privacy, or human rights. Trust cannot exist where information and communications technology and services providers remain accountable to authoritarian governments like the PRC, which subject domestic companies to broad intelligence and national security laws and lack an independent judiciary and the rule of law to protect companies and consumers. If confirmed, I will collaborate with partners like Honduras to ensure our shared security in a 5G future.

Question. Honduran President Castro has embraced the Maduro regime and no longer recognizes Juan Guaidó as the elected leader of Venezuela. Do you agree with the Honduran Government's decision? If not, who should be viewed as the rightful Venezuelan leader?

Answer. I regret that President Castro moved so quickly to recognize a regime that has contributed to the largest humanitarian crisis in recent history in the region. The United States continues to recognize the legal authority of the democratically elected 2015 National Assembly and the person chosen by this National Assembly to be constitutional interim President of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó. If confirmed, I will stress the importance of strong, representative, democratic leadership for the region, grounded in democratic institutions and processes.

Question. How do you plan to engage the Honduran Government to reverse course to restore democracy in Venezuela?

Answer. If confirmed, I will use the tools and support available to me through the U.S. Government to highlight the dangers posed by the Maduro regime, and the benefits of supporting the return of democracy in Venezuela. I will draw on my experience as U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua, home of another difficult regime in the region, to inform my actions.

Question. Many U.S. missions have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID.

- What is your understanding of morale throughout Mission Tegucigalpa?

Answer. I understand morale remains good. Like all missions, Mission Honduras has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department's provision of

COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, as well as pediatric vaccines has been a tremendous help to the Mission and a huge help to morale of employees and family members. The international school's transition from a fully virtual to hybrid learning environment this school year also provided welcome relief to families. Outdoor events organized by the Embassy's Community Liaison Office that celebrated U.S. holidays enabled families to socialize in person and strengthened resilience and a sense of community. Although the recent Omicron surge in Honduras necessitated a return to virtual-only events, the community understands the importance of mitigating the COVID-19 risk and looks forward to a time when in-person events might again be possible.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale at Mission Tegucigalpa?

Answer. I specialize in building strong and resilient teams whose members support each other, especially during difficult periods. If confirmed, I would begin my tenure as Ambassador by maintaining a focus on our people, ensuring we fully utilize available tools to care for our employees and their families. I would review eligible family member employment available through the Embassy and Washington hiring mechanisms to ensure qualified applicants are able to deploy their talents in support of the United States while developing their own careers. While it may not always be possible to work in the same space or relax together in person in the COVID-19 era, employees can and should feel energized and proud of the impact their important work is having both in the United States and in Honduras.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at Mission Tegucigalpa?

Answer. For a mission to be successful, each agency and their employees must have a solid understanding of our overall goals and strategy, and we must create an inclusive mission culture. All agencies and all employees must support the Integrated Country Strategy objectives and understand the role they as individuals play so that they will be fully invested in its success. Beginning with my arrival at post, I would regularly share our vision with all Mission members and develop diverse and interagency work teams within an inclusive environment to support accomplishing these objectives. I understand a new Integrated Country Strategy is being developed now with the input from all agencies, and if confirmed, I would ensure that all employees, not just the section or agency heads, understand the important role they play in helping achieve the Mission objectives.

Question. Management is a key responsibility for chiefs of mission. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. My management style prioritizes taking care of our people first, including their families, and demonstrating the highest level of ethics and integrity in my work. I expect teams I lead to do the same. I will make it clear I expect the professionals in Mission Tegucigalpa to do the right thing the right way but also to innovate and embrace change with a focus on achieving results. I will encourage those I rely on for support to provide honest and creative advice. I will always remind my team that they are ultimately responsible to the American people, and they should view their work not only through a foreign policy lens but also through a U.S. domestic policy lens. If our work does not benefit the American people, we need to redirect our efforts.

Finally, diplomacy is changing, and I look forward to supporting Department of State actions to build a new Diplomacy for the 21st Century and will encourage Mission Tegucigalpa's active participation in these efforts. I believe in empowering our talented employees and supporting their efforts.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

Answer. It is never acceptable to berate subordinates. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity both in public and in private.

Question. How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy chief of mission?

Answer. The role of the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) and the DCM's partnership with the Ambassador remains critical to the success of an Embassy. I intend to fully partner with and empower the DCM to serve as the Embassy Chief Operating Officer and as someone prepared to step in as Charge d'Affaires, if needed.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy chief of mission?

Answer. While the Ambassador ultimately takes responsibility for all operations of the Mission, I intend to empower the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) to serve as the Chief Operating Officer, handling the day-to-day operations of the Embassy, including the coordination of the work of all federal agencies. The partnership between the Ambassador and DCM remains critical and I will ensure we make a tight team. I will support the DCM's work heading up the Emergency Action Committee, the Law Enforcement Working Group, and other working groups in the Mission as well as supporting the employee-led Mission Diversity and Inclusion Council. The DCM would also lead development programs for all First and Second Tour employees from all agencies while also helping develop mid-level leaders throughout the Mission. Finally, I believe the DCM can and should assist me in supporting the requirements of the members of Congress, including official visits.

Question. In order to create and continue employee excellence at the Department, accurate and direct employee evaluation reports (EERs) for Foreign Service Officers are imperative, though often lacking.

- Do you believe that it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback on their performances in order to encourage improvement and reward those who succeed the most in their roles?

Answer. I strongly support providing all employees with accurate and constructive feedback. As Ambassador, I would do this personally with employees working directly for me, but I would also ensure this remains a priority for all managers in the Mission. Feedback begins long before the official EER is written and also includes nominating all qualified employees for awards for outstanding performance.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I would support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees.

Question. It is imperative that U.S. diplomats get outside of posts abroad to meet with local actors, including host-government officials, non-government organizations, and fellow foreign diplomats stationed in Honduras.

- In your opinion, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our Embassy walls enough to accomplish fully their missions?

Answer. I believe building a large and diverse network across the entire country remains an essential requirement for any diplomat. If confirmed, I would support Embassy employees engaging with as many different groups as possible outside the Embassy. While many conditions (security, pandemic restrictions, weather) can temporarily impact the ability to meet in-person outside the Embassy, we must continue to find a way for our team to safely engage. I would work with appropriate personnel in the Embassy to ensure U.S. diplomats can fully accomplish their mission.

Question. How do you intend to improve the ability of U.S. diplomats to better access all local populations?

Answer. Accessing all local populations remains a key part of diplomacy. I would ensure that we appropriately share finite security, transportation, and representational resources across the Mission to allow for access to all local populations. I would also encourage different agencies and sections to work together to reach many different populations.

Question. Public diplomacy is an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy efforts. What is the public diplomacy environment like in Honduras?

Answer. Embassy Tegucigalpa's Public Affairs Section (PAS) advances U.S. foreign policy priorities through programs and messaging related to migration, anti-corruption, support for democracy and civil society, the fight against transnational crime, and other bilateral priorities. Honduras' media environment remains open to Embassy messaging, and PAS has historically found audiences receptive to a broad spectrum of U.S. Government messages and public programs. This includes programs to improve quality of life for disadvantaged communities, including through English language education, a women's entrepreneurship program, and a public messaging campaign to reduce violence against women.

Question. What public diplomacy challenges do U.S. diplomats face there?

Answer. Embassy Public Affairs Section (PAS) programs address challenges to educational exchange, including low levels of education, lack of access to the Internet, and limited English language skills. PAS works to improve professionalism among Honduran media outlets by offering professional development opportunities

to Honduran journalists, working to improve the quality of their reporting on issues like corruption, rule of law, and other key bilateral interests.

Question. How do you balance the importance of Main State versus the in-country mission when it comes to tailoring public diplomacy messages for foreign audiences?

Answer. The Department in Washington sets policy and messaging priorities based on administration goals, while Embassy Public Affairs teams use their on-the-ground understanding of the media environment, local audiences, and prevailing political conditions in Honduras to convey persuasive messages that advance U.S. objectives. When a policy objective would benefit from the Washington bullhorn, we work with the Embassy to shape a media statement or tweet to effectively reach audiences in country. At all times, the Embassy Public Affairs professionals work closely with counterparts across the interagency to select the proper tool and channel to achieve a desired result. While the media and government officials monitor messages from Washington and value them greatly, the average Honduran is more interested in messaging from the Embassy. In the realm of migration information, information flowing through diaspora and smuggling networks have more sway than official messages from the U.S. Government, either in country or in Washington, though evidence shows that Hondurans consider U.S. Government information about immigration rules reliable.

Question. “Anomalous health incidents,” commonly referred to as “Havana Syndrome,” have been debilitating and sidelining U.S. diplomats around the world for years. They have caused serious, negative consequences for U.S. diplomacy, yet many believe that the Department is not doing enough to care for, protect, and communicate to its personnel.

- If confirmed, do you commit to taking this threat seriously?

Answer. Yes, I commit to taking this threat seriously.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to talking as openly as you can to Mission Tegucigalpa personnel?

Answer. Yes, I commit to talking as openly as I can with Mission Tegucigalpa personnel.

Question. In the State Department’s 2020 International Religious Freedom report, Honduras was identified as lacking societal respect of religious freedom, particularly in regards to anti-Muslim rhetoric and behavior.

- What is your assessment of this particular issue?

Answer. I believe in the right of every person to practice religion or not in the manner that best responds to their beliefs and preferences. If confirmed, I will call for tolerance and respect between adherents of all faiths and practices, provided they do not interfere with the rights of others.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the Ambassador-At-Large to bolster religious freedom in-country?

Answer. If confirmed, I will welcome the experience and ideas of the Ambassador-at-Large to promote religious freedom in Honduras. I will work with the Embassy community to identify challenges and opportunities both within the Mission and within the country for us to promote a message of support and openness to all expressions of faith.

Question. In the State Department’s 2020 Human Rights Report, Honduras was identified as having committed severe human rights abuses, like corruption, unlawful killings, threats and violence against free media, lack of accountability for those who commit human rights abuses, violence against women, among many more.

- If confirmed, what steps will you take to address these instances with the host government?

Answer. U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa tracks human rights cases and abuses carefully, and various offices in the Mission and across the U.S. Government contribute to the Embassy’s understanding of and ability to engage on these cases. If confirmed, I commit to actively supporting the Embassy team in policy and programming endeavors to advance respect for and protection of human rights. President Castro highlighted citizen security as a priority, and we share her concerns as we see insecurity as a driver of irregular migration. I will draw on my experience in the State Department and the Department of Defense to identify areas of engagement and innovative approaches to strengthening respect for human rights in Honduras.

Question. How will you direct your Embassy to work with civil society organizations to improve the human rights situation on the ground?

Answer. U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa already engages with civil society organizations and human rights institutions to follow human rights cases. If confirmed, I will empower the officers and staff working on human rights to seek meetings and activities that will advance U.S. interests in promoting respect for and protecting human rights in Honduras. I will make myself available to deliver hard messages, as appropriate, and to celebrate advances, and I will encourage broad use of funds and programming available through the interagency that support civil society organizations.

Question. How will you work with the relevant Ambassadors at Large within the Department to combat these major human rights issues?

Answer. If confirmed, I will welcome the expertise and experience of the Ambassadors-at-Large with a focus on the various human rights issues in Honduras. I will ask my team to identify gaps in our programming and outreach efforts and to make contact with the offices of the Ambassadors-at-Large to identify any possible cooperation opportunities.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to raising these human rights concerns within your first 100 days of your tenure?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to raising human rights concerns within the first 100 days of my tenure and will also continue to raise them, as appropriate, throughout my time as Ambassador.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU BY SENATOR TIM KAINE

Value-Added Tax

Question. U.S. companies operating in Honduras play an important role in increasing government revenue, creating jobs, and stimulating local economies. Improving the environment for U.S. investment by ensuring businesses are treated fairly and transparently are critical to addressing the root causes of migration. Unfortunately, U.S. companies continue to report significant over-withholdings of value added tax (VAT) and income taxes, and delays or denials in millions of dollars of tax refunds to which they are lawfully entitled.

- If confirmed, how will you ensure the Department works with the Castro administration to fulfill the legal and financial obligations necessary to foster an attractive investment environment and stimulate economic growth, including the timely refund of excess taxes paid by U.S. companies? What specific actions will you take to ensure the Castro administration implements effective remedies to expedite approved refund payments?

Answer. The United States worked to improve the investment climate in Honduras for U.S. investors for many years. We strive to increase predictability, rule of law, and international best practices with Honduras' Government institutions. If confirmed, I will use the array of mechanisms available to the Department and through the interagency to ensure Honduras respects its commitments under investment mechanisms, including CAFTA-DR, and that U.S. investors can obtain effective relief from excessive tax withholding.

Rule of Law

Question. An independent judiciary and fair, consistent application of legal precedent is critical to fostering predictability for U.S. investors considering opportunities in Honduras. President Biden's Root Causes Strategy highlights that weak rule of law, lack of transparency, and corruption deter much needed foreign investment in the region.

- As Ambassador, what steps would you take to encourage the Government of Honduras to strengthen the rule of law and foster a business-enabling environment for inclusive economic growth, especially regarding the fair and equitable treatment of critical investments by the U.S., and particularly in the CEMAR case?

Answer. The Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other agencies active at post work on rule of law programming to strengthen the justice sector in Honduras. These programs seek to create predictability and accountability in Honduras' Government institutions and to render those institutions

worthy of confidence from citizens and investors. If confirmed, I will promote the existing programs and work with my team to develop creative responses to evolving situations, especially those involving U.S. investors. A strengthened justice sector will advance several U.S. priorities in Honduras, including fighting corruption, increasing citizen security, and supporting economic development. I cannot comment on the specifics of any case, but if confirmed, I commit to asking my team to provide me with the information I need to help U.S. investors pursue resolution of their disputes and to meeting with those investors as appropriate.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. Last month, Honduras inaugurated Xiomara Castro to serve as its new President. She replaces Juan Orlando Hernández, under whose administration Honduras has pursued a broadly pro-American policy. For example, Honduras joined the U.S. in multilateral initiatives to support the interim government of Venezuela and to impose sanctions on the Díaz-Canel/Castro regime in Cuba.

- What is your assessment of how Honduras will approach its relationship to the United States under President Castro?

Answer. I understand the Department devoted significant effort to developing a positive relationship with President Xiomara Castro and her administration, beginning during the campaign. U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa personnel met with Castro's transition team, and the U.S. Government sent high-level interlocutors, including Vice President Harris, to demonstrate U.S. support for some of President Castro's initiatives. Castro will not fully align with the United States in every policy, but she repeatedly stressed her hope that the United States will remain Honduras' preferred partner on her top priorities. If confirmed, I will strive to build on the existing positive relationship to accomplish progress on our shared priorities, including countering corruption and drug trafficking, rebuilding the economy, improving security, and strengthening respect for human rights, all of which will contribute to a reduction in irregular migration. President Castro's victory as an opposition candidate in a free and fair election also sent the region a positive signal about democratic governance.

Question. What is your assessment of the new Honduran Government's plans to overhaul the Honduran economy?

Answer. I understand President Castro campaigned heavily on the need for economic recovery, and she focused on the need for improved rule of law—especially with regards to fighting corruption—as a central part of that plan. Honduras struggles with a low-skilled workforce, limited preventive healthcare options, and other challenges to economic development, but President Castro has the attention of the international community and the Honduran private sector. If confirmed, I will work to maintain President Castro's focus on improving the business and investment climate and on creating conditions for private sector-led economic development. I welcomed the announcement that the United States would facilitate delivery and deployment of pediatric vaccines to help get the schools open after a two-year hiatus.

Question. How do you think these initiatives will interact with the Biden administration's policy to counter the root causes of migration?

Answer. The Biden-Harris administration stresses the importance of private sector-led development and promoted efforts like the Call to Action and Build Back Better World to help organize efforts in encouraging quality investment and strengthening ties between our partner countries and U.S. businesses. If President Castro remains seriously committed to long-term growth and improvement for the Honduran economy, I believe the Department can deploy tools to help her and all Hondurans. The mechanisms and tools we have developed will increase opportunities in Honduras for high-paying, better-quality jobs that will allow people to remain in their home communities. If confirmed, I will work with my team in Tegucigalpa and their counterparts in Washington to maximize our ability to support those policies that mirror our own efforts.

Question. If confirmed, what priorities will you put forward for the Biden administration to continue the positive U.S.-Honduras relationship?

Answer. I understand many of President Castro's policies align with U.S. priorities for Honduras, including improving citizen security, with a focus on combating sexual and gender-based violence; countering corruption and drug trafficking; and

improving Honduras' respect for human rights. If confirmed, I will work with the interagency to seek responsive and creative ways to continue the positive relationship the United States enjoys with the Castro administration. I anticipate points of friction, as in any bilateral relationship, but I hope that we will maintain a foundation of mutual support and understanding.

Question. Shortly after winning election, President Castro had aired the idea of switching Honduras' diplomatic recognition from Taiwan towards the People's Republic of China, a move that the Chinese Communist Party has eagerly sought for years. In December of last year, Nicaragua did this and immediately received 1 million doses of the PRC's Sinopharm vaccine. Honduras, similarly, stands to receive significant benefits from the CCP should it recognize the PRC.

- Do you believe that Honduras should switch diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to the PRC?

Answer. Taiwan has proven itself a valuable, steady, and respectful partner to Honduras over several decades. Despite Castro's campaign musing about switching diplomatic ties to the PRC, she appears to have reconsidered that position. The United States has stressed the value and importance of maintaining ties with Taiwan. Taiwan's Vice President met with the Castro administration around the inauguration and acknowledged its hope to respond to Honduras' requests for engagement on economic development and investment. If confirmed, I will facilitate positive interactions between Taiwan and Honduras.

Question. If confirmed, will you encourage Honduras to maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan?

Answer. Yes, I will support Honduras in maintaining diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Honduras requested evolution in its relationship with Taiwan—a move from humanitarian assistance to long-term economic development and investment. If confirmed, I will help both sides explore the potential such changes offer including through collaboration with U.S. colleagues working at the American Institute of Taiwan. I will support initiatives and empower my teams to provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of our current and past approaches to ensure we can strengthen the overall relationship.

Question. What more can the Biden administration do to provide Honduras with investment and assistance, so that it does not feel like it has to accept dubious loans from the PRC's Belt and Road Initiative?

Answer. The Biden-Harris administration has several existing mechanisms to facilitate investment and infrastructure improvement as well as innovative programs. U.S. efforts seek to organize development and investment to help partner countries with climate resilient infrastructure and long-term improvements in workforce qualifications, including through Build Back Better World and the Blue Dot Network. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation has mobilized \$60 billion for development and investment around the world. In Central America, Vice President Harris launched the Call to Action to engage businesses in responsible economic development in Central America, and the public-private partnership with the Partnership for Central America seeks to amplify the Call to Action.

Question. Last week, the Honduran Congress passed a law that granted amnesty to individuals accused of embezzlement, fraud, abuse of authority, terrorism, sedition and illegal possession of weapons, among other crimes. The law seems only to apply to government officials who served from 2006 to 2009, which cleanly lines up with the administration of Manuel Zelaya, the former President of Honduras and President Castro's husband, who was ousted in 2009.

- Do you believe the amnesty law tarnishes President Castro's attempts to portray herself as an anti-corruption advocate?

Answer. I regret that the new Government elected to fight corruption beginning with an amnesty law. Local NGOs and civil society actors called the amnesty law "an impunity pact," and other observers have raised similar concerns about its reach and objective. The turmoil in the Honduran congress reflects on President Castro's ability to act on the mandate the people gave her.

Question. Are you worried that this amnesty law raises the question that President Castro's administration may attempt to re-write Honduras' constitution, just as former President Zelaya did before his ouster?

Answer. I understand President Castro has dismissed allegations she would try to stand up a constituent assembly. If confirmed, I will use every tool available to me to promote respect for democratic processes and institutions.

Question. If confirmed and in the event that Honduras re-attempts constitutional changes that could undermine Honduran democracy, what will be your response?

Answer. If I am confirmed, and in the event Honduras attempts to push through constitutional changes that could undermine Honduran democracy, I will work with the Department and the interagency to use the appropriate tools to promote respect for democratic institutions and processes. I would call upon the diplomatic community in Honduras to use our combined voices and resources to urge a measured and long-sighted approach to any significant changes proposed.

Question. As you know, President Biden began his administration by announcing his ambition to address the root causes of migration in Central America. I believe that increased private sector investment in Honduras is integral to this effort. It is important for the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa to work with the Castro administration to identify barriers to U.S. investment in Honduras and to promote solutions to improve the business environment for U.S. companies.

- Do you agree that increased investment by U.S. companies can help create economic benefits and contribute to addressing the root causes of migration in Honduras and the wider region?

Answer. Yes, I agree that U.S. private sector investment can bring economic benefits to Honduras while also addressing some of the root causes of irregular migration. I believe high-quality investment brings not just capital but also builds Hondurans' knowledge and technology in nearly any sector. If confirmed, I look forward to working with existing programs throughout the interagency that strive to reduce trade and commercial barriers and seek to increase economic opportunities through an improved investment environment in Honduras. I will carefully review options for near-shoring in support of U.S. supply chains. If confirmed, I will coordinate closely with U.S. businesses already working in Honduras as well as with those considering new investments in the country while working closely with the Honduran Government to improve its investment climate.

Question. If so, how can we work with the Castro administration to reduce barriers to investment for U.S. companies?

Answer. I understand President Castro reached out to private sector leaders during the campaign and immediately after her electoral victory, requesting input and advice on the formation of her economic and financial policies. If confirmed, I will encourage my team to work with the Castro administration, private sector leaders in the United States and Honduras, and across the U.S. Government to maintain the positive momentum we have seen so far. I believe our broad focus on improving rule of law and fighting corruption will also contribute to reducing barriers to U.S. investment and to creating an enabling environment for more and varied investment.

Question. One of the barriers to U.S. investment in Honduras is the issue of over-withholding of Honduran Value Added Tax and income tax. Just like here, the Honduran Government withholds an estimate of what it believes companies' and individuals' taxes will be throughout the year, and refunds those entities that have overpaid. Unfortunately, U.S. investors have experienced significant delays in receiving these refunds. While the previous Hernandez administration made a commitment to address this issue, I am concerned that the Castro administration will not prioritize it.

- Do you agree this creates a barrier for U.S. companies looking to reinvest in Honduras?

Answer. Yes, I believe uncertainty and unpredictability create barriers to U.S. investment in Honduras.

Question. If confirmed, how would you work with the Castro administration to resolve refunds owed to U.S. businesses, expedite approved refund payments, and minimize future over-withholding of tax?

Answer. The United States has sought to improve the investment climate in Honduras for U.S. investors for many years. We strive to increase predictability, rule of law, and international best practices with Honduras' Government institutions. If confirmed, I will use the array of mechanisms available to the Embassy to ensure Honduras respects its commitments, including those under CAFTA-DR. I will strive to show the Honduran Government that ensuring U.S. investors can obtain effective relief from excessive tax withholding also serves Honduras' interests as it will provide a clear sign of an improving investment climate.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
 SUBMITTED TO RANDI CHARNO LEVINE BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Ukraine

Question. Transatlantic unity is vital to deterring Putin from re-invading Ukraine. Portugal has committed to join in imposing severe costs on Russia if it escalates aggression against Ukraine. If confirmed, how will you work with the Portuguese Government to ensure a unified response in the event that Russian actions fell short of a full-scale invasion, but still constitute an attack on Ukraine's sovereignty?

Answer. Portugal is contributing forces to the NATO contingent of troops rotating through the Baltics in Lithuania. Portugal has consistently supported EU sanctions against Russia and played a constructive role in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Foreign Minister Santos Silva has also highlighted the importance of speaking with one voice and expressed increasing concern over malign Russian influence in European politics, including hacking government systems, conducting espionage, and spreading disinformation. If confirmed, I will advocate strongly with the Portuguese to continue holding Russia accountable for threatening actions and violations of international norms to deter any destabilizing activities.

European Energy Security

Question. Portugal does not use Russian gas, but Europe still depends on Russian gas for 40 percent of its energy needs. Given the strategic importance of the Port of Sines, how would you work to partner with Portugal on energy security and diversification? And what opportunities exist for partnership in the Azores for developing clean, renewable energies?

Answer. Portugal has long advocated for Europe to develop gas interconnections to transport natural gas and 'green' hydrogen between the Iberian Peninsula and Central Europe to diversify gas supply sources and reduce energy dependence on Russia. Portugal is also a climate action leader, among the first to ratify the Paris Agreement and commit to carbon neutrality by 2050. Portugal will soon begin to spend its EU recovery funds, which seek to improve infrastructure and its green energy transition, including in the Azores. If confirmed, I will work to boost mutual economic growth through increased investment, climate and energy cooperation, and to counter non-market and coercive economic practices.

China

Question. Portugal and China signed a memorandum of understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative in 2018, and China has been a major investor in Portugal in the past decade. China has historically attempted to use its investments to push its agenda in Europe—a hallmark of its debt-trap diplomacy. How would you work with the Portuguese Government to expose the negative impacts of Chinese investment, particularly in sensitive sectors like energy?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work closely with Portugal to address the significant challenges PRC actions pose and to counter problematic PRC influence. I will strive to enhance awareness of the vital national security significance of critical infrastructure to the Government of Portugal and promote trusted vendors based in countries with due process and respect for the rule of law. I will encourage efforts to strengthen the current investment screening regime in Portugal and offer technical assistance and the exchange of best practices. In addition, I will work hard to bring more American businesses to the table as a strong alternative to PRC investment.

Anomalous Health Incidents

Question. I am very concerned about directed energy attacks on U.S. government personnel (so-called Anomalous Health Incidents). Ensuring the safety and security of our personnel abroad falls largely on individual Chiefs of Mission and the response of officers at post. It is imperative that any individual who reports a suspected incident be responded to promptly, equitably, and compassionately. Do you agree these incidents must be taken seriously, and pose a threat to the health of U.S. personnel?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, there will be nothing more important than the health and security of those working with me. I will consider it my primary responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the Mission Portugal. AHIs have been a top priority for Secretary Blinken, who set clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department's communication with our workforce, provide care for affected employees and family members, and better protect against these events in the future as we continue to work closely with the interagency to find the cause of these AHIs.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that any reported incident is treated seriously and reported quickly through the appropriate channels, and that any affected individuals receive prompt access to medical care?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will do everything possible to ensure that employees who report a possible AHI receive immediate and appropriate attention and care and the incident is reported through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to meeting with medical staff and the RSO at post to discuss any past reported incidents and ensure that all protocols are being followed?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, there is nothing I will take more seriously than the health and security of the people who will be working with me.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO RANDI CHARNO LEVINE BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Economic Relationship

Question. Portugal's economy has suffered heavily during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Ambassador, how would you work with the Portuguese Government to find ways the U.S. can aid in its domestic economic recovery?

Answer. While the tourism and hospitality sectors have suffered during the pandemic, Portuguese GDP grew by 4.9 percent in 2021 and is expected to grow by another 5.5 percent in 2022. As Prime Minister Costa and his government begin a new term, his first move will be to approve the 2022 budget and implement his party's plans to spend the EU recovery funds, which seek to improve Portugal's infrastructure and green energy transition. If confirmed, I will work hard to achieve mutual economic growth through increased investment, especially in climate and energy cooperation, and reinforce our shared prosperity. The United States and Portugal are strongest when we work together, and we will need this partnership now more than ever as the United States leads the global recovery from COVID-19.

Question. As Ambassador, how will you encourage U.S. investment in Portugal?

Answer. U.S. firms have a large and growing footprint in business service centers in Portugal, taking advantage of its pool of multi-lingual talent, and Portuguese technology startups flourish in the startup ecosystem in the United States. U.S. investment can strengthen our bilateral relationship and create new economic opportunities for both our countries. If confirmed, I will strive to bring more American businesses to the table.

Question. As Ambassador, how will you encourage U.S. trade with Portugal?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that Embassy Lisbon is fully engaged in recruiting a high-quality delegation to premier initiatives like the annual SelectUSA Investment Summit, the SelectUSA Tech Program, and the Select Global Women in Tech Program. Portugal continues to develop a global reputation as a technology and tech start-up hub, attracting commensurate interest from U.S. tech firms. Portuguese firms are also heavily invested in the United States, particularly in wind and solar energy development, and create thousands of jobs domestically. If confirmed, I will focus on increasing mutually beneficial bilateral investment, particularly in climate and energy cooperation, as Portugal goes through its own clean energy transition.

Political Relationship

Question. Portugal's Socialist Party just won the sole majority in Parliament. While it has led the ruling coalition for years, it now has the seats to rule alone. How will you engage with the new PS government as well as minority parties on issues affecting the U.S.-Portuguese relationship?

Answer. As the new government begins its term, they will need to approve the 2022 budget and implement PS's plans to spend the EU recovery funds, which seek to improve Portugal's infrastructure and green energy transition. Portugal's long-standing foreign policy built on Transatlantic ties, the EU, and ties with the Lusophone world will remain unchanged. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Portuguese Government to counter the significant and growing PRC economic influence and create new opportunities based on these shared interests and values.

NATO

Question. Portugal only spends 1.54 percent of its GDP on military expenditures, far below the amount that it and all other NATO members pledged in 2014 to spend—two percent. Previous ambassadors have urged Portugal to meet that two percent goal, and while Portugal’s military spending has indeed risen, it has been very slow and a rather small increase from an already low floor. What will you do differently from your predecessors to convince or encourage Portugal and its government of the necessity of being a stronger contributor to NATO?

Answer. Portugal remains a key NATO Ally and plays an important role in NATO’s core mission of collective defense, including sending 146 Marines for three months to Lithuania under the NATO Assurance Measures mission and 174 soldiers to Romania for NATO’s Tailored Forward presence. Portugal continues to voice unwavering support for and commitment to NATO missions and operations. Portugal submitted a roadmap to raise defense spending to 1.66 percent by 2024 but is expected to fall short of its Wales Pledge commitments. If confirmed, I will urge the Portuguese increase defense spending to enable it to modernize its military, meet force contribution commitments, and fulfill its NATO capability targets.

State Department Management and Public Diplomacy

Question. Many U.S. missions have been under enormous stress over the last few years, in large part due to COVID. What is your understanding of morale throughout Mission Lisbon?

Answer. Although the pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, I understand that morale at Mission Portugal is generally good. Embassy Lisbon and Consulate Ponta Delgada are staffed by an experienced and motivated team of Americans from across the interagency and excellent locally employed staff. The entire team showed enormous flexibility during the worst of the pandemic. Portugal’s high vaccination rate has helped mitigate against serious illness and deaths among Mission personnel.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale at Mission Lisbon?

Answer. If confirmed, I will reach out to members of the team at all levels, including local staff, contractors, and family members of all the U.S. government agencies represented at the Mission to learn about any concerns they may have and be an empowering, inclusive leader.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at Mission Lisbon?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Mission’s Country Team to develop innovative ways to achieve our goals in the recently updated Integrated Country Strategy. I will share our mission and vision widely and frequently to the entire team. I will create opportunities for frequent messaging and dialogue through events targeting the entire community, such as town hall discussions, awards and promotion ceremonies, community events, and other forms of active outreach.

Question. Management is a key responsibility for chiefs of mission. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I have always believed in the importance of serving the community, and I have demonstrated an ability to work with colleagues of all backgrounds in a constructive manner. I regularly engage with members of my team and always seek to create a space for open dialogue and diversity of thought. If confirmed, I will work hard to foster an environment of respect as Mission Portugal carries out important work on behalf of the American people. I also believe in setting high standards and leading by example. Our employees are our most important asset. I am dedicated to professional development and helping employees grow and advance.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

Answer. No.

Question. How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy chief of mission?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Deputy Chief of Mission to advance U.S. priorities in Portugal, including protecting the safety and security of Americans, expanding our economic relationship, and advancing shared political priorities. I expect to have a positive working relationship and to work together closely.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your deputy chief of mission?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my first actions as ambassador will be to meet the entire team at Embassy Lisbon and Consulate Ponta Delgada, including the Deputy Chief of Mission. I will consult closely with the Deputy Chief of Mission on a range of issues and value the institutional knowledge provided. In general, I would expect the Deputy Chief of Mission to serve as the chief operating officer for the Mission, to liaise with the interagency at post and in Washington, manage implementation of the Administration's strategic goals, and co-lead efforts to build a cohesive team with good morale.

Question. In order to create and continue employee excellence at the Department, accurate and direct employee evaluation reports (EERs) for Foreign Service Officers are imperative, though often lacking. Do you believe that it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback on their performances in order to encourage improvement and reward those who succeed the most in their roles?

Answer. Yes. It is imperative that we use the performance evaluation process to give timely, honest, and constructive feedback to all employees to increase morale, improve job performance, and reward high performers.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. Yes.

Question. It is imperative that U.S. diplomats get outside of posts abroad to meet with local actors, including host-government officials, non-government organizations, and fellow foreign diplomats stationed in Portugal. In your opinion, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our embassy walls enough to accomplish fully their missions?

Answer. Yes. Based on my knowledge of the Department and embassy operations overseas, U.S. diplomats have done a remarkable job to get outside our embassy walls and advance U.S. objectives by meeting local actors in diverse settings and environments. Understanding the health restrictions due to COVID-19 over the last two plus years, I wholeheartedly support Edward R. Murrow's view that the most crucial part of diplomacy happens in the last three feet. My background is people to people diplomacy. If confirmed, I will follow in the footsteps of the ambassadors who came before me and traveled the country extensively to connect with all facets of the Portuguese community.

Question. How do you intend to improve the ability of U.S. diplomats to better access all local populations?

Answer. At this time, U.S. diplomats in Portugal face no restrictions on their movement or interactions with the local population. If confirmed, I will encourage them to take full advantage of this environment to advance our interests with all sectors of the Portuguese populace. I will also encourage staff to build and strengthen partnerships with outside entities including a separate Fulbright Commission, the media, non-governmental organizations, government ministries, alumni of our exchange programs, and the Luso-American Development Foundation.

Question. Public diplomacy is an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy efforts. What is the public diplomacy environment like in the Portugal?

Answer. Public diplomacy is a vital part of our mission. The Fulbright program in Portugal benefits 65-70 American and Portuguese scholars and students every year. The Portuguese news media scene is dominated by four main media groups and the Government of Portugal, including the Lusa wire agency, which reaches beyond Portugal to other Lusophone countries and to Portuguese communities abroad. Portuguese outlets are constantly seeking commentary and clarification from the U.S. Embassy. Public Diplomacy Section efforts focus on competing with PRC economic and public diplomacy initiatives; supporting transatlantic economic and trade relations; promoting U.S. culture, values, education, tourism and products; countering Russian malign activities; and highlighting the U.S. commitment to the Azores.

Question. What public diplomacy challenges do U.S. diplomats face there?

Answer. International state-controlled media outlets like Xinhua, Sputnik, and Russia Today compete against the U.S. Mission and independent western media outlets for influence in the Portuguese media space, making media monitoring and skilled engagement to push back against disinformation even more important. Our digital engagement efforts are key to engaging Portugal's current and future opinion leaders. While Portugal has a strong Fulbright Commission and a network of six American Corners, the PRC continues to build their influence by offering full schol-

arships for all levels of education, as well as expanding their Confucius Center network. If confirmed, I will work to explore new educational partnerships.

Question. How do you balance the importance of Main State versus the in-country mission when it comes to tailoring public diplomacy messages for foreign audiences?

Answer. Unity of message is important in foreign policy, so when it comes to public messaging on policy issues, the U.S. Mission should and does depend on guidance from Main State. However, it is up to the in-country team members to provide local understanding of foreign audiences and context, build key bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and effectively tailor Washington's messages for the local context. Embassy Lisbon's public diplomacy team does that very well, and if confirmed, I'll make sure that we keep up that caliber of work.

Question. "Anomalous health incidents," commonly referred to as "Havana Syndrome," have been debilitating and sidelining U.S. diplomats around the world for years. They have caused serious, negative consequences for U.S. diplomacy, yet many believe that the Department is not doing enough to care for, protect, and communicate to its personnel. Have you received a briefing on anomalous health incidents? If you have not, and if you are confirmed, do you commit to receiving a briefing on the incidents before you depart for your post?

Answer. I have not yet received a briefing, but I commit to receiving one. If confirmed, there is nothing more important than the health and security of those working with me at Embassy Lisbon. I will consider it my primary responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the Mission Portugal Secretary Blinken prioritizes the Department's response to AHIs, setting clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department's communication with our workforce and provide care for affected employees and family members.

Question. In the event of an anomalous health incident among your embassy personnel or eligible family members, do you commit to maintain detailed records of the incident, and share the information with the State Department and other embassies to contribute to the investigation of how these attacks are affecting U.S. missions and personnel around the world?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will do everything possible to ensure that employees who report a possible AHI receive immediate and appropriate attention and care and the incident is reported through appropriate channels.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to taking this threat seriously?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, there is nothing I will take more seriously than the health and security of the people who will be working with me.

Question. The past occurrences and ongoing threat of anomalous health incidents among embassy personnel and their families poses a serious challenge to morale. When personnel at post fear for their safety or doubt that their case will be taken seriously if they were affected, the performance of embassy operations can suffer. Whether or not anomalous health incidents occur at your embassy, how will you work to restore and preserve morale that may be lost due to the knowledge these attacks have been occurring at posts around the world?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to continue the good work of our current leadership team. I will reach out to members of the team at all levels, including local staff, contractors, and the family members of all the U.S. government agencies represented at the Mission to learn about their concerns.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to talking as openly as you can to Mission Lisbon personnel?

Answer. Yes.

Human Rights and International Organizations

Question. In the State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, Portugal was downgraded from Tier 1 to Tier 2 because of a lack of serious efforts to prosecute suspects and a lack of convictions of traffickers, among other reasons. How will you work with the Portuguese to address these issues if you are confirmed as Ambassador?

Answer. The Government of Portugal did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in 2021 but made significant efforts to do so. Multi-year patterns of decreases in several areas resulted in the downgrade to Tier 2. However, as a recognized leader on human rights issues, Portugal is well-placed to continue to take action to reinforce its TIP efforts. If confirmed, I look forward to cooperating with Portugal to combat this transnational crime that affects our re-

spective national security and am committed to partnering with Portugal to identify areas of progress that achieve tangible results to advance anti-trafficking efforts.

Question. What is your assessment of U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in country? Please explain in detail.

Answer. Despite the pandemic, Portugal made gains in several areas, to include investigating more suspects, awarding more restitution to victims, and updating its national referral mechanism. The Department's J/TIP office organized a training delivered by the Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit in January 2021 and participated in the U.S.-Portugal strategic dialogue, which also addressed human trafficking. As a recognized leader on human rights issues, Portugal is well-placed to continue to take action to reinforce its TIP efforts, and if confirmed, I look forward to cooperating with Portugal to achieve tangible results together that advance anti-trafficking efforts.

Question. If confirmed as Ambassador, do you commit to raising human trafficking efforts in the first 100 days of your tenure?

Answer. Yes.

Question. In the State Department's 2020 International Religious Freedom report, Portugal was described to lack a societal respect for religious freedom, namely in the face of rising anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim rhetoric and behavior. What is your assessment of this particular issue?

Answer. Portugal's commitment to religious freedom is enshrined in its constitution that protects the freedom of religion and worship and prohibits religious persecution and discrimination. Overall, relations among different religious communities in Portugal are very good, and there have been few incidents of hate crimes against any religious groups in the last few years. If confirmed, I will use strategic outreach to advance a U.S. commitment to furthering understanding among people of all religious traditions and support cultural and religious diversity in Portugal. Culture and faith are key areas on which to build mutual understanding through dialogue. At the same time, if confirmed, I will closely monitor and condemn any acts of religious intolerance, including those that may target Jewish or Muslim communities.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the Ambassador-At-Large to bolster religious freedom in-country?

Answer. If confirmed, I will incorporate these topics into the mission's broader efforts to promote interfaith tolerance and the safety of religious, racial, and ethnic minority communities in Portugal. I will encourage the government at the national, state, regional, and local levels to take steps to improve protection for religious minority communities, places of worship, and other culturally meaningful sites, incorporating experience and expertise of those communities. I will also direct my Country Team to support encounters with minority communities that promote tolerance and respect for religious freedom and include community projects and interfaith coalitions. I will also empower local voices to speak out against hate crimes.

Question. What is your assessment of U.S. efforts to bolster religious freedom in Portugal?

Answer. Religious freedom and tolerance have played pivotal roles in Portugal's history. Embassy Lisbon has maintained strong contacts with government and religious representatives of Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, and Protestant groups across various religious freedom issues. If confirmed, I will seek to strengthen Mission Portugal's outreach to these communities and expand on our shared commitment to uphold and protect religious freedom and diversity.

Question. If confirmed as Ambassador, what is your plan to work with both Ambassadors-at-Large for Religious Freedom and Office to monitor and combat Anti-Semitism given the rise of anti-Semitic incidents in country?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to work closely and seamlessly with the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, and the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues to continue to advocate for these priority issues. The Portuguese Government has been consistent in its commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance, and research. In May 2021, the Holocaust Museum of Porto opened its doors, the first on the Iberian Peninsula specifically dedicated to the Holocaust. The local Jewish community, some of whose members lost family in the Holocaust, helped establish the private museum. There are also plans to build a Jewish museum in Lisbon. If confirmed, I look forward to promoting Holocaust education and countering Holocaust distortion and

denial, countering antisemitism and prejudice in all forms, and protecting religious freedom.

Question. In the State Department's 2020 Human Rights Report, Portugal was reported as having significant human rights abuses to include corruption, domestic violence, child abuse, and acts of violence against minority groups. If confirmed, what steps will you take to address these instances with the host government?

Answer. Portugal has applauded the administration's commitment to equality and the defense of human rights, and strongly welcomes U.S. leadership in these areas. If confirmed, I would be committed to advancing gender equity and equality, empowering women and girls, and working hard to prevent and respond to all forms of violence. Exchange programs also enable contacts to serve as force multipliers for the U.S. Embassy to advance equality and defend human rights for all. I would also increase engagement with local advocacy groups, NGOs, and government officials.

Question. How will you direct your embassy to work with civil society organizations to improve the human rights situation on the ground?

Answer. If confirmed, I will continue activities that support diversity and inclusion and human rights. I will seek to increase engagement with local advocacy groups, NGOs, and government officials to advance human rights, including those of the LGBTQI+ community, and showcase Post's own diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to raising human rights in the first 100 days of your tenure?

Answer. Yes.

East Asia and the Indo-Pacific

Question. What are the implications of China's investments in Portugal's energy industry, including its energy grid?

Answer. PRC-backed companies have sizable stakes in key sectors in Portugal like energy, construction, and insurance. China State Grid and China Three Gorges are, respectively, the largest shareholders in Portuguese energy grid operator REN and global utility EDP, two key players in Portugal's energy transition plans. The PRC also uses investments in Portugal to further gain an economic foothold in Lusophone countries through its companies and media.

Question. How will you engage with your Portuguese counterparts on this matter, if confirmed?

Answer. The depth and breadth of bilateral ties between Portugal and the United States show that our countries are fundamentally aligned in ways that the PRC and Portugal are not. However, many Portuguese politicians are relatively sanguine about the PRC based on Portugal's 500-year history of trading and investments in Macau and China. If confirmed, I will work closely with Portugal to address the significant challenges the PRC poses and strive to raise the awareness of the vital economic and national security significance of critical infrastructure, including 5G networks, to the Government of Portugal.

Question. The University of Lisbon has a partnership focused on Naval Architecture and Offshore Technology with Harbin Engineering University (HEU). HEU is one of China's Seven Sons of National Defense—the key universities with deep roots in, and ties with, the Chinese military and defense industry. Will you commit to prioritizing China-Portugal technology and defense partnerships that could undermine U.S. interests?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to prioritizing awareness with the Government of Portugal as it related to Portuguese-Chinese technology and defense partnerships that undermine U.S. interests.

Question. How will you tackle this challenge, if confirmed?

Answer. While encouraging academic freedom, if confirmed, I will urge our allies and partners to practice careful oversight on academic collaboration with their PRC based academic partners, and strive to enhance awareness to prevent research that may be exploited by rival militaries or for human rights abuses.

Question. Portugal is a major hub for undersea cables, and industry where state-run and state-supported Chinese companies are making major strides vis-à-vis trusted vendors in the United States, the European Union, and Japan. Portugal has expressed some understanding of the need to keep untrusted vendors out of Euro-

pean cable networks. How will you advance U.S. interests on this issue in your engagements with Portugal, if confirmed?

Answer. Portugal is actively seeking to attract more undersea cables to establish itself as European gateway for digital connections. At the same time, the PRC continues to seek ways to increase science and technology cooperation with various Portuguese (mainland and Azorean) maritime institutions. This is concerning from a security perspective, and if confirmed, I will work hard to push back on the PRC's technological threats and build resilience to Beijing's economic coercion.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO RANDI CHARNO LEVINE BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Golden Visas

Question. Portugal remains one of the few countries in the European Union to maintain its "golden visa" legislation. These golden visas, or officially, "investor visas," provide essentially residency and even citizenship to those with enough money to pay. Oligarchs in Russia and in the People's Republic of China use these programs to gain citizenship in Europe. If they gain citizenship in a country that participates in our Visa Waiver Program, that becomes a path for corrupt officials, responsible for human rights abuses, the ability to freely travel to the U.S. What is your opinion of Portugal's golden visa laws?

Answer. Our Mission must continue to facilitate strong connections between U.S. and Portuguese companies, investors, and entrepreneurs to carry out legitimate trade and develop new economic opportunities. As a member of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), Portugal has a close security partnership with the United States on immigration and border screening. If confirmed, I will urge careful oversight of such programs and seek to maintain and enhance existing information sharing and law enforcement cooperation with Portugal.

Question. What is your opinion of proposals here that would make Portuguese nationals eligible for U.S. investor visas?

Answer. Our two nations already enjoy extensive cultural and economic ties. Bilateral trade in goods between the United States and Portugal reached \$4.6 billion in 2020. Our bilateral relationship continues to serve as an important building block for our larger goal of revitalizing the transatlantic partnership. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our mutual prosperity and economic growth by supporting and promoting efforts that increase investment in both countries. If the AMIGOS Act or equivalent legislation becomes law, I will facilitate Treaty Trader (E-1)/Treaty Investor (E-2) visas for qualified Portuguese passport holders.

Question. If confirmed, how would you work with the Portuguese Government to ensure that Portugal properly vets applicants to its golden visa program?

Answer. Portugal's participation in the VWP allows the United States to verify the identity document of travelers and determine whether these travelers represent a threat to the security of the United States and its citizens. If confirmed, I will seek to strengthen and expand existing cooperation with Portugal through robust information sharing and law enforcement cooperation, and jointly address global and regional threats and challenges. As with other VWP countries, the Department of Homeland Security assesses the immigration and border screening capabilities of foreign partners every two years, including the integrity of any citizenship-by-investment programs.

Afghan Refugees

Question. Portugal has been one of the countries most receptive to hosting Afghan refugees. Many of these refugees are Christians, military translators, and others that are at acute risk of oppression by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Many of them are supported by American organizations through funding and supplies to help these refugees rebuild a normal life in Portugal. What is your assessment of the Administration's plans for the eventual future for Afghan refugees currently in Portugal?

Answer. Since the relocation of our Afghan partners began in August, the Government of Portugal has been a trusted and indispensable partner in the effort to support at-risk individuals and their families from Afghanistan. The Portuguese continue to express a willingness to host these Afghan refugees, make them feel welcome, and help them adjust to life in Portugal. In addition, the Department is mov-

ing forward with refugee processing for Priority 1 and Priority 2 referred cases in Portugal.

Question. Do you believe the Portuguese Government will agree to indefinitely host them, or do you believe that Lisbon will want to resettle them in the U.S. or other third countries?

Answer. The Government of Portugal has offered asylum to the refugees who have entered their country and the government has been clear that they intend to assist the refugees in making Portugal their permanent home. U.S. NGOs and private citizens are donating an estimated five million dollars to help fund these efforts. As I understand it, Embassy Portugal has received no requests from the Government of Portugal to resettle them in the United States.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. N. NICKOLAS PERRY BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Anomalous Health Incidents

Question. I am very concerned about directed energy attacks on U.S. Government personnel (so-called Anomalous Health Incidents). Ensuring the safety and security of our personnel abroad falls largely on individual Chiefs of Mission and the response of officers at post. It is imperative that any individual who reports a suspected incident be responded to promptly, equitably, and compassionately.

- Do you agree these incidents must be taken seriously, and pose a threat to the health of U.S. personnel?

Answer. Yes. I take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people who will work with me, should I be confirmed, and I will ensure that any reported incident that falls under my Chief of Mission authority will receive an appropriate medical and security response. Secretary Blinken prioritizes the Department's response to Anomalous Health Incidents (AHIs), setting clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department's communication with its workforce and providing care for affected employees and family members.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that any reported incident is treated seriously and reported quickly through the appropriate channels, and that any affected individuals receive prompt access to medical care?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will do everything possible to ensure that employees who report a possible AHI receive immediate and appropriate attention and care and the incident is reported through appropriate channels.

Question. Do you commit to meeting with medical staff and the RSO at post to discuss any past reported incidents and ensure that all protocols are being followed?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people working at U.S. Embassy Kingston. I commit to working with health and security officials and other parties as recommended to establish and maintain appropriate protocols and ensure a healthy working environment for both Americans and local staff.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. N. NICKOLAS PERRY BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

General

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to placing your personally owned rental property in Jamaica into a trust that neither you nor any member of your immediate family controls so that you can ensure there will be no perceived or real conflict of interest from serving as the U.S. Ambassador to a country where you have financial gain?

Answer. Since the announcement of the President's intent to appoint me, my wife and I decided to cease making our privately owned property available for rentals. We directed the property manager to implement this decision and the property is now only for private use.

If confirmed, I commit to conduct all my public, personal, and private business affairs in a manner that is always in full and complete compliance with the highest ethical standard required for the office of the U.S. Ambassador.

Counter Narcotics

Question. According to the State Department's 2021 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Jamaica is the largest Caribbean supplier of marijuana to the United States and a transit point for cocaine trafficked to the United States and other markets.

- Please describe your understanding of the areas in which the U.S. and Jamaica can improve bilateral efforts to target narcotics trafficking in Jamaica and the Caribbean writ large.

Answer. I understand U.S.-Jamaican collaboration on matters of law enforcement and citizen security is excellent, overall. We share the same goals and the same commitment to combating transnational organized crime and protecting our citizens.

The United States and Jamaica work collaboratively on a wide range of issues designed to address crime and violence affecting Jamaican citizens and enhance the security of the American homeland. We do this principally through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI). Our security cooperation with Jamaica under CBSI addresses shared security priorities including maritime law enforcement, border and port security, firearms trafficking, transnational crime, gangs, law enforcement and justice sector capacity building, and youth crime and violence prevention. The United States also works with the Jamaican Constabulary Force Narcotics Unit and the Jamaican Defense Force's Coast Guard to strengthen border security, conduct interdiction operations, dismantle networks engaged in illicit trafficking, and cooperate on maritime interdiction of illegal narcotics. If confirmed, I will work hard to see that this collaboration between our countries continues to increase.

Question. If confirmed, how will your approach to countering drugs and crime be different from the U.S. Government's previous policies, which have not yielded sustained positive results?

Answer. I understand the 26 U.S. Government agencies that make up the Embassy in Kingston provide capacity building assistance to aid law enforcement and criminal justice actors, including Jamaican courts, the Jamaican Constabulary Force, and the Jamaican Defense Force. The United States made substantial progress through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative in combating narcotics trafficking and transnational crime and increasing citizen security. I recognize that U.S. programs need to continue to evolve to meet the most significant threats and challenges we face in Jamaica, including sustained work to combat gangs, corruption, financial crimes, and other emerging issues.

Question. In 2019 Jamaica became a participant in the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Belt and Road Initiative. What specific actions will you take to highlight the consequences of the CCP's non-transparent and coercive economic, financial, and lending practices in order to counter its negative influence in the Caribbean?

Answer. The United States encourages our partners to follow international best practices for investments and trade that meet high standards in terms of transparency, adherence to anti-corruption standards, debt sustainability, labor rights, environmental best practices, and addressing the needs and concerns of local communities. We urge partners to develop investment screening mechanisms to ensure that untrusted vendors do not gain access to or influence over critical infrastructure or sensitive sectors. Untrusted vendor investment in critical infrastructure and sensitive sectors opens partners and the United States up to national security and data privacy risks.

If confirmed, I will seek to ensure that Jamaica's leaders are aware of the PRC's opaque policies and financing practices that do not meet international standards and undermine countries' critical infrastructure security, the rules-based international order, fair global market competition, or human rights.

Question. In 2020, Jamaica accepted over 140 Cuban doctors to provide medical services as part of a COVID-19 agreement. Do you agree that these Cuban medical missions are a form of human trafficking and if so, what would you do to highlight this issue with the Jamaican Government?

Answer. I understand there are serious and ongoing concerns about allegations of forced labor in Cuba's international missions' program, one of the Cuban government's largest sources of revenue. If confirmed, I will urge Jamaican authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent forced labor and seek transparency on contractual agreements between the Cuban government and Cuban overseas workers, to screen those associated with this program for trafficking indicators, and to protect those victims identified. I will commit to continued high-level diplomatic engagement with the Jamaican Government on this issue and others that relate to our shared support for human rights.

Question. What is your understanding of morale throughout Mission Kingston?

Answer. I understand that the stress of the pandemic, along with the loss of several Mission staff, had a profound impact on Mission Kingston. Nevertheless, the Mission staff, both American and local staff, have lived up to the highest standards of the Department by continuing to perform at the very highest level, advocating for U.S. interests and bilateral cooperation related to political and economic issues, managing development programs, and providing citizen services to Americans in distress. I applaud their dedication and, if confirmed, it will be my honor to lead such an outstanding group of public servants.

Question. How do you intend to improve morale at Mission Kingston?

Answer. The morale, well-being, and safety of all mission employees will be one of my top priorities as Ambassador, if confirmed. I will work with Embassy leadership to ensure there are proper resources in place for all employees to contribute to the Mission's success. I will also make every effort to ensure that all employees are aware that I care about them, that I want to hear from them, and that it is my duty to try to address their concerns.

Question. How do you intend to create a unified mission and vision at Mission Kingston?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to working with my entire Embassy team, including all 26 agencies represented there, to ensure that we operate as a single team in the service of the citizens of the United States, our government, and the strengthening of our relationship with the people and government of Jamaica. In carrying out our mission, I will strive to ensure that Mission Kingston has a diverse and inclusive workforce where all employees are respected and treated equitably.

Management is a Key responsibility for chiefs of mission

Question. How would you describe your management style?

Answer. I would describe my management style as a combination of democratic management and coaching management. I admire democratic management since I believe good leadership is rooted in collaboration. I also appreciate the value of the coaching management style in which a leader is committed to the ongoing development of his staff and works to identify what motivates each employee so that the manager can identify their strengths and weaknesses and help them to become better professionals.

Question. Do you believe it is ever acceptable or constructive to berate subordinates, either in public or private?

Answer. It is never acceptable or constructive to berate a subordinate, in public or in private. I believe such conduct demonstrates a lack of control and is antithetical to creating a positive and productive workplace.

Question. How do you envision your leadership relationship with your deputy chief of mission?

Answer. An effective Embassy requires a smooth, complementary relationship in the Front Office between the Ambassador and the Deputy Chief of Mission. I recognize that a senior Foreign Service Officer will be of great value to the Embassy in Kingston and it will be my responsibility to work with them in a way that takes advantage of their talents and experience, from coordinating the implementation of the Integrated Country Strategy to ensuring harmony and synchronization of the 26 agencies that make up the Mission. If confirmed, I look forward to sitting down with the Deputy Chief of Mission and devising a relationship that ensures the success of our important work in Jamaica on behalf of the United States.

Question. If confirmed, what leadership responsibilities do you intend to entrust to your Deputy Chief of Mission?

Answer. If confirmed, I anticipate the Deputy Chief of Mission will be key to three Mission priorities: the effective implementation of the Integrated Country Strategy by the Country Team; advocating for U.S. interests and enhanced bilateral cooperation; and serving as my principal counsel on anything relating to our staff and their welfare.

Question. In order to create and continue employee excellence at the Department, accurate and direct employee evaluation reports (EERs) for Foreign Service Officers are imperative, though often lacking.

- Do you believe that it is important to provide employees with accurate, constructive feedback on their performances in order to encourage improvement and reward those who succeed the most in their roles?

Answer. It is absolutely important to provide all employees, from entry-level officers to members of my senior staff, with accurate and constructive feedback. It is essential to their professional development, and I am committed to making that a hallmark of my service in Jamaica, if confirmed.

Question. If confirmed, would you support and encourage clear, accurate, and direct feedback to employees in order to improve performance and reward high achievers?

Answer. I believe clear, accurate, and direct feedback is essential to the management of all employees. I want to ensure everyone on our team is pulling their weight and contributing to our success. That will only be done if everyone receives the feedback they require.

Question. It is imperative that U.S. diplomats get outside of posts abroad to meet with local actors, including host-government officials, non-government organizations, and fellow foreign diplomats stationed in Jamaica.

- In your opinion, do U.S. diplomats get outside of our embassy walls enough to accomplish fully their missions?

Answer. I understand U.S. diplomats need to get outside of the Embassy to meet contacts and assess local conditions, taking the appropriate precautions related to prevalent violent crime and the pandemic. As with many things, we should always strive to do better, and if confirmed, I will certainly encourage the Embassy Kingston staff to engage as much as conditions allow.

Question. How do you intend to improve the ability of U.S. diplomats to better access all local populations?

Answer. If confirmed, I intend to set the pace for the rest of my team. I plan to get out and see as many Jamaicans as possible, to share U.S. views and listen to their concerns, and to showcase the great programs that the U.S. Government is conducting in Jamaica. As much as possible, if confirmed, I will encourage embassy staff to interact with Jamaicans from all walks of life.

Public diplomacy is an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy efforts

Question. What is the public diplomacy environment like in Jamaica?

Answer. I understand U.S. Embassy Kingston has thriving and dynamic public diplomacy (PD) programs and engagements involving media, educational, and cultural institutions. By and large, Jamaicans are favorable toward our messaging and are eager to participate in our PD programs.

The Embassy manages a variety of U.S.-sponsored cultural and educational exchange programs, including the Fulbright Program, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI), and other ad hoc exchanges. We have great working relationships with government ministries and NGOs.

The Embassy enjoys a strong working relationship with the local media, and it has a monthly article and radio program highlighting consular issues. The daily newspapers print the majority of embassy press releases, and the mission is able to garner interest for press conferences and interviews with Embassy officials.

Question. What public diplomacy challenges do U.S. diplomats face there?

Answer. The COVID pandemic has substantially altered our public diplomacy efforts. I understand the Embassy was able to pivot in order to engage and message digitally when the COVID-19 pandemic made in-person events impossible. However, schools, NGOs, and civil society organizations in Jamaica often lack the resources and connectivity to participate in virtual programs with the Embassy. If confirmed, I will encourage staff to broaden our public engagement options and think creatively about how we can interact with more Jamaicans from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Question. How do you balance the importance of Main State versus the in-country mission when it comes to tailoring public diplomacy messages for foreign audiences?

Answer. I understand the State Department's bureaus and overseas missions work hand-in-hand on public diplomacy. In doing so, they create messaging about key policy priorities that resonate with the local audience and design educational and cultural programs that further U.S. goals of economic growth, respect for human rights, strengthening civil society, protecting the environment, and embracing diversity.

Question. "Anomalous health incidents," commonly referred to as "Havana Syndrome," have been debilitating and sidelining U.S. diplomats around the world for

years. They have caused serious, negative consequences for U.S. diplomacy, yet many believe that the Department is not doing enough to care for, protect, and communicate to its personnel.

- If confirmed, do you commit to taking this threat seriously?

Answer. Yes. I take nothing more seriously than the health and security of the people who will work with me, should I be confirmed, and I will ensure that any reported incident that falls under my Chief of Mission authority will receive an appropriate medical and security response. I understand Secretary Blinken prioritizes the Department's response to Anomalous Health Incidents (AHIs), setting clear goals for the Health Incident Response Task Force to strengthen the Department's communication with its workforce and providing care for affected employees and family members.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to talking as openly as you can to Mission Kingston personnel?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to speaking as openly as possible to mission personnel and working with health and security officials as recommended to establish and maintain appropriate protocols and ensure a healthy working environment for both Americans and local staff.

Question. In the State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, Jamaica remained on Tier 2 due to sustained efforts to meet the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, including a sizable conviction.

- How will you work with the Jamaican Government to address these ongoing issues if you are confirmed as Ambassador?

Answer. I understand that the Government of Jamaica takes the Department's annual reporting on trafficking in persons very seriously, and the Holness administration is a committed partner in combatting these issues. The 2021 TIP Report acknowledged the Government's progress in applying stringent penalties to a convicted trafficker and ensuring restitution paid to a victim. However, the Jamaican Government continues to struggle with low numbers of victims identified and assisted, and few prosecutions and convictions. If confirmed, under my leadership, the U.S. Government and its implementing partners will seek to strengthen the Jamaican Government's capacity to combat human trafficking, provide victim services training, and engage in high-level dialogue with the Jamaican Government to keep them focused on victim identification and protection, prosecution of criminal actors, and community-based prevention.

Question. What is your assessment of U.S. efforts to combat trafficking in country? Please explain in detail.

Answer. The U.S. Government heavily invested in building the capacity of the Jamaican Government to combat human trafficking in Jamaica. Under the U.S.-Jamaica Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons invested nearly \$6.7 million to bolster the Government of Jamaica's efforts to address this issue. The CPC Partnership is a jointly developed, multi-year plan that builds on existing efforts to prosecute and punish perpetrators of child trafficking; identify child trafficking victims and coordinate the provision of comprehensive protective services; and prevent child trafficking from occurring. Both our governments committed to working collaboratively in Jamaica over four years to achieve improved and sustainable policies and practices to meet the CPC Partnership's objectives. If confirmed, I will seek to continue these projects alongside our deep engagement to build the capacity of a broad range of local civil society organizations with the local knowledge and expertise to support efforts to combat human trafficking.

Question. If confirmed as Ambassador, do you commit to raising human trafficking efforts in the first 100 days of your tenure?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to continually improving and expanding our efforts to combat human trafficking in Jamaica. The Government of Jamaica is a strong and willing partner in these efforts, and we look forward to growing our partnership with them, local civil society organizations, and U.S.-based implementing partners to continue making headway on this issue. I commit to the prioritization of the fight against trafficking in persons during my first 100 days and throughout my tenure.

Question. In the State Department's 2020 International Religious Freedom report, the U.S. Embassy was noted as being regularly engaged with civil society to encourage positive discourse and action as it relates to religious freedom.

- What is your assessment of this particular issue?

Answer. Jamaica's constitution firmly guarantees freedom of religious belief, and this freedom is backed up by a robust array of civil society organizations that the Embassy regularly works with. If confirmed, I'll stand by the Jamaican peoples' right of religious freedom. Moreover, continued stigma against members of the Rastafarian community and legal discrimination against LGBTQI+ Jamaicans, supported by some religious groups and leaders, are issues which require continuing discourse and attention. If confirmed, I will ensure the Embassy will continue working to address them.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the Ambassador-at-Large to bolster religious freedom in-country?

Answer. I understand Embassy Kingston regularly convenes diverse faith groups and civil society organizations to promote positive discourse on the topics of religious freedom and tolerance. Religious freedom is a U.S. foreign policy priority, and the Department continues to monitor the religious freedom situation in Jamaica. If confirmed, I will work the Ambassador-At-Large for International Religious Freedom (IRF) and other stakeholders to ensure all citizens enjoy their freedom of religion and equal protection as stated in the constitution.

Question. In the State Department's 2020 Human Rights Report, Jamaica was identified as having serious human rights issues and abuses, like corruption, sex and labor trafficking, and poor prison conditions, among others.

- If confirmed, what steps will you take to address these instances with the host government?

Answer. The Biden-Harris administration prioritizes the advancement of human rights, democracy promotion, and the fight against corruption, which was on display during the December 2021 Summit for Democracy. If confirmed, I will continue to raise the U.S. Government's human rights priorities with our partners in the Government of Jamaica at the highest levels. Prime Minister Andrew Holness delivered remarks at the Summit for Democracy that committed Jamaica to advancing human rights in Jamaica and multilateral fora. Curbing police abuses, human rights violations, and corruption will be top priorities in our security and economic partnerships with the Jamaican Government, private sector, media, civil society organizations, and marginalized communities, and the Embassy will continue to be deeply involved at nearly every level of the Jamaican Government's efforts to combat human trafficking.

Question. How will you direct your embassy to work with civil society organizations to improve the human rights situation on the ground?

Answer. A key priority for Embassy Kingston is supporting and building the capacity of Jamaica's many robust civil society organizations working to strengthen the rule of law, curb corruption, and provide support for human rights defenders in the country. Through programs such as the U.S.-Jamaica Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership, the Embassy directs substantial funding to implementing partners who train and support Jamaican Government agencies in combatting the scourges of human trafficking and related issues. If confirmed, I will continue to convene civil society organizations focused on fighting corruption to build stronger partnerships, share lessons learned, identify resource opportunities, better inform our reporting to Washington and Congress, and guide our conversations with partners in the Jamaican Government on these issues.

Question. If confirmed, how will you work with the Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption on corruption issues in country?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to partnering with the new Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption in our efforts to better combat corruption and the problems it feeds such as gang violence, drug trafficking, and financial scams targeting vulnerable Americans. I will also seek to enhance the Embassy's anti-corruption efforts by pursuing the full suite of U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption Pillar 5 lines of action that would include publicly supporting Jamaica's robust civil society, journalists, and anti-corruption activists and government anti-corruption institutions, such as the Auditor General's Department, the Major Organized Crime Agency, Integrity Commission, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Financial Investigations Division.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO HON. N. NICKOLAS PERRY BY SENATOR MARCO RUBIO

Question. Jamaica has become a target of considerable lending through the Chinese Communist Party's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since 2005, Jamaica has received about \$2.1 billion in financing from Chinese sources for road construction, housing, entertainment centers, hospitals, schools and even government buildings. Almost \$1.2 billion have been to critical industries, like the mining of bauxite, transportation and energy. Capping off this lending, Jamaica formally joined the Belt and Road Initiative in 2019. Although Jamaican officials are confident that these loans can be repaid, they have notably become more reluctant to receive more funding.

- Do you agree that China's Belt and Road Initiative is predatory lending?

Answer. The United States encourages our partners to follow international best practices for investments and trade that meet high standards in terms of transparency, adherence to anti-corruption standards, debt sustainability, labor rights, environmental best practices, and addressing the needs and concerns of local communities. The United States urges partners to develop investment screening mechanisms to ensure that untrusted actors do not gain access to or influence over critical infrastructure or sensitive sectors. Untrusted actor investment in critical infrastructure and sensitive sectors opens partners and the United States up to national security and data privacy risks.

If confirmed, I will seek to ensure that Jamaica's leaders are aware of the PRC's opaque policies and financing practices that do not meet international standards, undermine countries' critical infrastructure security, the rules-based international order, fair global market competition, and human rights.

Question. If confirmed, will you support efforts by U.S.-backed international financial institutions to provide enhanced investment to Jamaica, including by providing a 10th capital increase to the Inter-American Development Bank?

- In addition to your home state of New York, the largest concentration of Jamaican-Americans reside in my home state of Florida. They maintain close ties with their relatives in Jamaica, and many U.S. companies have business presence in the Caribbean island. Remittances from these communities also form a substantial source of Jamaican GDP.

Answer. The Jamaican Government undertook a six-year economic reform program with support from the IMF prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which ensured it had the resources to help its citizens. The Holness administration made impressive gains in reducing public debt. If confirmed, I will urge the Holness administration to continue on a path that assures international financial institutions and potential American investors of Jamaica's fiscal stability, accountability, and welcoming business environment. If confirmed, I will support greater investments by the Inter-American Development Bank in projects that help Jamaica address its development needs in a responsible and sustainable fashion. Discussions on the IDB's resources should occur from the bottom up, taking into account the views of all shareholders and IDB Management and fulsome analyses of financial conditions, the use of resources and how it relates to the region's challenges, and the IDB's role within the larger financing and policy landscape for the region.

Jamaica and the United States have long enjoyed a very close relationship built upon shared values, trade, cultural ties, tourism, and the diaspora community. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen those ties, especially with the diaspora community. I will also focus on expanding and enhancing our trade and investment relationship with Jamaica. If confirmed, I will work to increase the awareness of the opportunities that exist for U.S. businesses outside of the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Question. If confirmed, what are your top priorities to support economic and cultural ties between Jamaica and the Jamaican-American community?

Answer. If confirmed, I believe my life experience will contribute to a strengthening of the ties between Jamaican-Americans and their homeland. I will meet with Jamaican-American groups to hear their views on how we can encourage enhanced economic ties between them and Jamaica to the benefit of both countries. I will also support the Embassy's cultural and educational exchanges that enable Americans and Jamaicans to share ideas and learn from each other. Each of these areas will be important as we make the U.S.-Jamaican relationship even stronger.

Question. Since the 1990s, drug violence has plagued Jamaica, which continues to experience high rates of crime and violence. The country still has the highest

homicide rate in the entire Latin America and Caribbean region, at 45.5 per 100,000 people.

- How would you work to improve ongoing anti-drug efforts to prevent drugs from coming to U.S. from Jamaica?

Answer. I understand U.S.-Jamaican counter-narcotics collaboration is excellent, overall. We share the same goals and the same commitment to combatting transnational organized crime and protecting our citizens.

The United States and Jamaica work collaboratively on a wide range of issues designed to address drugs and crime. We do this principally through the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI). Jamaica is one of thirteen Caribbean countries that partners with the United States to advance three overarching, complementary goals: reduce illicit trafficking, improve public safety and security, and prevent youth crime and violence in the Caribbean. Our security cooperation with Jamaica under CBSI addresses shared security priorities including maritime law enforcement, border and port security, firearms trafficking, transnational crime, gangs, law enforcement and justice sector capacity building, and youth crime and violence prevention.

U.S. assistance also supports the Jamaican Government's capacity to secure and monitor its borders and territorial seas through training and technical assistance to the Jamaican Defense Force.

If confirmed, I will work hard to see that this collaboration between our countries continues to increase as we seek to reduce the flow of drugs that transit Jamaica and enter the United States.

Question. What is your view of the current Holness government's approach to combating violence and drug trafficking, specifically by creating local states of emergencies?

Answer. I understand that the Holness administration is working hard to reduce the high level of crime, especially homicide, plaguing the country. Crime in Jamaica is a special concern because of the number of U.S. citizens who reside or visit the country. The 26 U.S. Government agencies that make up the Embassy in Kingston provide capacity building assistance to aid local criminal justice actors, including Jamaican courts, the Jamaican Constabulary Force, and the Jamaican Defense Force, and support other efforts to reduce violence. This includes programs under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to reduce illicit trafficking, improve public safety and security, and prevent youth crime and violence in the Caribbean.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that we maintain our close relationship with Jamaican authorities and civil society groups aimed at reducing the level of violence and countering drug trafficking.

**Correspondence from The Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance,
Supporting Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt's Nomination to be
Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism**

IJMA

Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance

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February 7, 2022

The Hon. Robert Menendez
The Hon. James Risch
Chairman and Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Re: Support for the Nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt as U.S. Special
Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch:

We are writing as members of the Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance (IJMA), a bipartisan coalition of American Jewish and Muslim leaders, to express our full and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt to be U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, with the rank of Ambassador. We call on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, followed by the full Senate, to confirm Professor Lipstadt to this critical post.

At a time of growth in antisemitism abroad, this position, which was created by an act of Congress, is vital and urgent. President Biden nominated her in July 2021.

IJMA was founded in January 2019 by individuals and communal organizations of the Jewish and Muslim communities to pursue projects that serve the interests of the entire nation. We promote understanding, civility and comity between our two communities as a model of American pluralism. One of our priority projects is

addressing bigotry in each community directed towards the other community, through outreach and educational efforts. We address the most difficult issues in the Muslim-Jewish relationship. For instance, during the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas in May of last year, IJMA members unanimously agreed to a public statement against antisemitism and expressing sympathy for the victims of the conflict, the only Muslim-Jewish statement of its kind.

Professor Lipstadt is one of our nation's foremost experts on modern antisemitism. In both her scholarship on the history of antisemitism and on the multifarious forms that it takes today, and in her advocacy on responses to current manifestations of what is often described as "the world's oldest hatred," Professor Lipstadt has acted without fear or favor in calling out Jew hatred, from whatever place on the political spectrum and under whichever guise it may appear.

Importantly, Professor Lipstadt well understands, and has acted upon, the need to build relationships with and act in coalition with other faith communities in the battle against antisemitism and against all other forms of hatred and bigotry.

At a time when it is crucial that US demonstrate leadership in response to the growing presence of antisemitism internationally, we urge the Senate to move with urgency to confirm Professor Lipstadt as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, a role for which she is especially suited.

Respectfully,

The Inter Jewish Muslim Alliance (IJMA)

Mohamed Abubakr, President of the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project
 Atiya Aftab, Co-founder of the Sisterhood of Salaam-Shalom
 Majid Alsayegh, Chairman of the Dialogue Institute
 Adnan Ansari, Executive Director of Muflehun
 Imam Abdullah Antepli, Duke University professor and co-director of Muslim Leadership Initiative of the Shalom Hartman Institute
 Georgette Bennett
 David Bernstein, Founder, Jewish Institute for Liberal Values
 Marshall Breger, Professor of Law at Catholic University
 Rabia Chaudry, attorney and author
 Richard S. Cohen, President of The Walden Group and Marcia's Light Foundation
 Richard Foltin, religious freedom policy expert and advocate
 Maital Friedman, co-director of Muslim Leadership Initiative of the Shalom Hartman Institute

S.A. Ibrahim, former CEO of Radian Group Inc. and interfaith leader
Rizwan Jaka, Chair of Interfaith & Government Relations, All Dulles Area Muslim Society
Suhail Khan, Vice President of IJMA
Moses Libitzky, businessman and community leader in the San Francisco Bay Area
Rabbi Jack Moline
Melanie Nezer, Senior Vice President of HIAS
Sheryl Olitzky, Co-founder of the Sisterhood of Salaam-Shalom
Daphne Price, Co-founder of IJMA
Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Max Sevillia, Vice President for Government Relations, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
Imam Talib Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, the Nation's Mosque, and
Vice Commander of the Muslim Americans Veterans Association
Robert Silverman, President of IJMA
Halie Soifer, CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America
Rabbi David Wolpe, Max Webb Senior Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Los Angeles

Correspondence from Senator James Lankford, U.S. Senator for Oklahoma, Supporting Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt's Nomination to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism

HON. JAMES LANKFORD,
U.S. SENATOR FOR OKLAHOMA,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

The United States should remain a leader in calling out and condemning instances of antisemitism in our nation and around the world. It is up to all leaders – in families, in communities, in faith-based organizations and at all levels of government to denounce antisemitism and to ensure Jewish communities know that we stand with them.

As co-chairs of the Senate's Bipartisan Taskforce for Combatting Antisemitism, Senator Rosen and I continue to work together to take specific steps to address and prevent antisemitism. We have led our colleagues in a number of efforts to condemn anti-Semitic actions, supported Holocaust education efforts and worked to ensure houses of worship and faith-based organizations that are experiencing threats of anti-Semitic violence can access funding for necessary security.

While our efforts continue to drive action in and from the United States Senate, it is important that we also prioritize a whole of government approach to turning the tide against all forms of antisemitism, so that when we say, 'never again,' we can demonstrate that we mean it.

Unfortunately, antisemitism has been rising at an alarming rate. These trends have been recorded by the United States government, including the Department of Justice, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and the Department of State.

The position of U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism has been elevated to the level of ambassador now requires advice and consent from the Senate. I am grateful that Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch have included the nomination of Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt for this position in today's hearing.

I have met with Dr. Lipstadt and am impressed by her unwavering commitment to combat antisemitism. I recognize and share the concerns some have based on the social media posts by Dr. Lipstadt that have surfaced during her nomination process, particularly those relating to Members of Congress. It is important that any nominee to this position use discretion and remain nonpartisan to ensure our nation's efforts to combat antisemitism are not thwarted by political divisions. Dr. Lipstadt has made it clear to me that she agrees this position requires such a perspective.

Dr. Lipstadt has been an out front leader on antisemitism for decades, as demonstrated by her valiant efforts to combat Holocaust deniers, her dedication to educating her students on the history, culture and beliefs of the Jewish people, and her commitment to shining a light on antisemitism, wherever it may arise.

As members of this Committee know well, the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism works to promote accurate Holocaust education, improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities, ensure foreign public officials condemn anti-Semitic discourse, and strengthen foreign judicial systems in their prosecution of anti-Semitic incidents.

Among other tasks, Dr. Lipstadt, if confirmed, will be the one responsible for leading, developing and implementing these efforts by working closely with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society.

Unfortunately, Jewish communities have faced continued threats, violence and mockery during acts of worship, at synagogues, and at Jewish-owned businesses. The premise of this office is intended to act as a spotlight on incidents of antisemitism as it works to promote a society where individuals can be free and safe to live their faith.

It is vital that the United States swiftly fill this position, which will act as the driving force behind the efforts of the United States and combat antisemitism worldwide.