

**Testimony of Jay Patrick Murray**  
**Nominee for Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**July 11, 2017**

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Merkley, distinguished members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations. I am grateful to President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, and Ambassador Haley for this opportunity.

It was the honor of my life to serve my country in uniform for almost twenty-five years. While I've retired from the Army, that solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution has no expiration date. If confirmed, I pledge to take those same values to the United Nations, where I will work diligently to defend American national interests and protect our sovereignty.

Upon its creation after World War II, the United Nations was seen as a mechanism for peace and stability around the world. Since that time, we've seen the United Nations provide lifesaving food and medicine globally, help the weak and most vulnerable, and send peacekeeping troops into some of the most dangerous corners of the world. However, the UN also retains a culture of mismanagement, inefficiency, and a lack of accountability. An organization that ignores the activities of grave human rights abusers while repeatedly and unfairly assailing one of our greatest allies, Israel. And as we look around the world, it is clear that the United Nations Security Council leaves much to be desired in fulfilling its mandate to maintain international peace and security. So there is certainly much work to be done, and American leadership and values at the United Nations will be essential moving forward.

I am grateful for Ambassador Haley's leadership at the United Nations, pressing for vital reforms, insisting on fair treatment of Israel, and defending global freedoms. We face myriad global challenges, including a devastating famine across Africa and Yemen, the growing threat of North Korea, and the ongoing conflict in Syria. Currently there are some 100,000 UN peacekeepers deployed around the world, including in volatile places like Mali, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. The American taxpayer foots 29 percent of that bill, making ours far and away the largest contributing nation. And while we appreciate the vital role of peacekeepers, the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse threatens to undermine that role and permanently damage the reputation of the UN's blue helmets. Indeed, when peacekeepers prey upon the very people they are ostensibly there to protect, it is not only vile and wrong, but the viability of the peacekeeping operation is greatly diminished. If confirmed, I will fight to ensure that the UN finally holds those responsible, both the individuals and the troop contributing countries, publicly to account, and work to improve training efforts at home and whistleblower protections in the field. This must be stopped.

Additionally, based on my previous experience I believe the Security Council must take a goal-oriented approach to peacekeeping. Instead of allowing peacekeeping operations to perpetuate for decades, we should establish mandates with clear objectives, and hold both the leadership and the host parties responsible for accomplishing those objectives so that we can

declare victory and go home. We owe that not only to the troops in the field and the citizens they are there to protect, but also to the American taxpayer.

I have a strong background of military, political and diplomatic experience. Army Foreign Area Officers have long been described as America's "Soldier-Statesmen." I proudly served as a Foreign Area Officer at numerous embassies around the world, at the Department of State in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs, and later at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations as the American Military Representative to the United Nations Military Staff Committee. I participated in frequent UN Security Council deliberations pertaining to international peace and security, Peacekeeping Operations, and other issues. If confirmed, I will be involved with these, and other similar issues at USUN.

I am grateful for Ambassador Haley's leadership at the United Nations, and once again, I am honored to be considered for this post, and for the opportunity to work under her leadership. I believe we are at a tipping point, where the injection of strong American leadership and values can make a powerful, positive difference, not only in an institution with so many shortfalls yet so much promise, but also for those most vulnerable around the world. A secure, stable world is decidedly in America's national interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee today. I look forward to taking your questions.