

Testimony of Jane D. Hartley
Ambassadorial Nominee to the Republic of France and Principality of
Monaco
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 15, 2014

Thank you, Chairman Murphy, Ranking Member Johnson, and members of the Committee.

It is a great honor to appear before you as President Obama's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to France and Monaco.

Before I begin, please allow me to introduce to you my dear husband Ralph Schlosstein, who has been so supportive in this process. If you do me the honor of confirming me, Ralph is looking forward to coming with me to Paris. My daughter Kate and my son Jamie are not able to be present. But they're here with us in my heart and they make me proud every day of my life.

I am deeply grateful to both the President and Secretary Kerry for the trust they have placed in me to serve as Chief of Mission to our oldest friend and ally. I hope that you will consider that trust well placed, and that the Committee and the Senate will award me the great honor of your confirmation.

Only some 60 Americans have served as our nation's highest representative to France since our first Ambassador, Benjamin Franklin, arrived in Paris over 235 years ago. Franklin was succeeded by another American Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson.

In this century, the list is an honor roll of patriotism and accomplishment --- Bruce, Dillon, Shriver, Rohatyn, and so many others. It is humbling ---and challenging--- to be nominated to join that company.

The honor is magnified because, if confirmed, I would become only the second woman to serve in this position, after the late Pamela Harriman.

This year's events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings during World War II offered a special reminder of the long and

close relationship America has had with France over almost two and a half centuries.

Last month, on June 6th, President Obama and President Hollande stood side-by-side at Omaha Beach in Normandy and paid tribute to the Americans who fought to liberate France. Nine of your colleagues attended with the presidents that morning at the American cemetery. Our sacrifice is remembered and deeply valued in France.

When President Hollande was here in Washington last February, he went to Arlington and presented the Legion d'Honneur to the Unknown Soldier --- as the representative of the 16 million Americans who served in World War Two.

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Today, France stands by our side on almost every major issue. France is a unique ally in terms of its military capability and political willingness to deploy force in harm's way in pursuit of our common foreign policy interests. Our operational cooperation within NATO ---and beyond--- has vastly improved since France's 2009 reintegration into the Alliance's military command structure. Our work together on counterterrorism activities is intense and growing, especially in Africa.

Twice in the past 18 months France has led the international community's response to crises in Africa. Its troops and airstrikes halted the advance of Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist groups in Mali. Another large deployment prevented humanitarian catastrophe in the Central African Republic. France's facilities, relationships, and expertise are a significant capability multiplier for U.S. efforts in the region.

France is an indispensable ally in the Middle East. President Hollande has been unequivocal that Iran must not acquire a nuclear weapon, and France remains resolutely committed to the P5+1 negotiations. If confirmed, I will also remind French leaders this is not the time for our companies to engage in "business as usual" with Iran.

France has been a forward-leaning partner on Syria, working closely with us to increase pressure against the Asad regime. France has helped lead efforts to support the Syrian opposition, remove the regime's chemical weapons,

provide humanitarian assistance, and reach a political solution. The French government takes the threat of foreign fighters returning from Syria very seriously and its authorities have made several arrests in recent months. If confirmed, I will ensure the U.S. government works closely with France on this emerging threat to our common security.

France has played an important role in responding to the crisis in Ukraine, rallying its European partners to keep up pressure on Russia, including through sanctions. We support President Hollande joining forces with Chancellor Merkel to push for a diplomatic breakthrough between Russia and Ukraine. As Members of the Committee are well aware, France signed a contract with Russia in 2009 to deliver two “Mistral-class” helicopter carrier ships to Russia. President Obama has made clear we have concerns about “continuing significant defense deals with Russia” given its actions to destabilize its neighbors. At the same time, the President said the U.S.-French relationship “has never been stronger,” which means we can discuss this issue frankly. U.S. officials repeatedly stress our strong concerns to the French. If confirmed, I will continue to press French leaders to make the right decision regarding delivery of these ships.

The leaders of our two countries are in constant dialogue. President Obama hosted President Hollande in February for the White House’s only state visit since early 2012 – a reflection of the vitality of the U.S.-French relationship. During that visit, the President took Hollande to see Monticello --- the home of our third President, who had been our second Ambassador to France. Secretary Kerry’s dozen visits to France during the past 17 months also underscore the robust health of our cooperation.

While our work together on political and security issues commands the headlines, our economic ties are no less important. France is the world’s fifth-largest economy and remains one of our top economic partners.

Drawing on my decades of experience as a CEO and a business executive, if you do me the honor of confirming me, I will focus on building on the trade links that bind our countries together --- links that, as you know, are already very strong.

Our transatlantic commerce creates jobs on both sides, for enterprises large and small. We want to ensure that any U.S. firm can take advantage of opportunities to export to France. In 2013, the United States exported \$32

billion worth of goods to France, and we are France's top trading partner outside of the European Union. We must keep engaging France on the benefits of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, making the case that an ambitious agreement can create more economic growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

French investment in the United States creates jobs. U.S. affiliates of 2,300 French firms employ half a million Americans at an average annual wage of nearly \$80,000. And many French firms are looking at the U.S. rather than France for future investments. In fact, the total stock of French foreign direct investment in the United States is 10 times the combined FDI of the BRICS countries.

If confirmed, I will be able to use my decades of professional experience with running organizations to lead our large, diverse Mission to France. Around 900 U.S. and locally employed staff work at our Paris Embassy and six constituent posts. This talented, dedicated team advances our national interests and protects U.S. citizens every day. It would be a true honor to serve with them.

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For twenty years I have been the CEO of a global macroeconomic and political consulting firm, with a particular focus on Europe. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Heidrick & Struggles, a large global executive search firm with a substantial European presence. As the former Vice-Chairman of the Economic Club of New York, I have moderated many sessions with key European policymakers.

I have served on the Executive Committee of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. And I have been an active member of the Committee on Foreign Relations for over ten years.

My family and I have a deep and abiding respect for the importance of public service. I still remember my parents' pride when I began my public service career thirty-five years ago. First, as Director of Congressional Relations for the Department of Housing and Urban Development --- where I learned first hand the vital role of the legislative branch. And, later on, serving on President Carter's staff at the White House.

My father ingrained in his children a deep belief that we were lucky to be living in the greatest country on earth. He believed deeply, and taught us, that the highest honor anyone could attain was to serve our country.

Chairman Murphy, Ranking Member Johnson, and members of this distinguished Committee, if confirmed by the United States Senate, I will do everything in my power to strengthen and deepen the ties that have bound France and America together since the birth of our great country. I look forward to this extraordinary challenge and hope to have the chance to serve the United States of America at this important moment in history.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.