

STATEMENT OF  
Hon. William R. Brownfield  
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for  
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs,  
before the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
November 17, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is an honor to testify as the President's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, known by many in this room as I-N-L.

This is the fourth time that I appear before this Committee as a Presidential nominee. I hope you will find I bring some specific qualifications to my nomination for this position. I served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for INL in 1998-1999. I was Director of INL's Office of Policy and Coordination from 1993-95. I have served as U.S. Ambassador three times – to Chile, Venezuela, and Colombia – and at each post I worked closely with INL in the field. I have tremendous respect for the INL Bureau, its people, and its mission. I am proud of its growth, development, and professionalization over the past 17 years.

The Bureau that I left in 1999 was very different from the INL Bureau today. In 1999, INL managed less than \$400 million; today, it manages nearly \$4 billion. In 1999, INL programs and operations concentrated overwhelmingly in Latin America and the Caribbean; today, the Western Hemisphere represents about 30% of its global portfolio. In 1999, INL was an organization focused principally in counterdrug programs; today, the counterdrug portfolio is one tool in a more comprehensive kit of tools to build stronger justice systems in key countries and combat transnational organized crime.

One thing that has not changed is that in every region of the world, new and maturing democracies recognize that safe and secure communities are prerequisites to peace and prosperity. Working to help our partners in that respect is intensely and directly tied to the security and prosperity of the United States and the American People. Our government's success in combating narcotics trafficking and organized crime overseas has a direct impact on the streets of U.S. cities. When coca is eradicated or heroin interdicted overseas, American lives are saved.

When foreign law enforcement, legal and corrections systems do their jobs better, American security improves. When effective police forces are stood up in Iraq or Afghanistan, American soldiers no longer must place their lives in harm's way. In fact, in Colombia, Iraq and Afghanistan, standing up effective law enforcement institutions under the rule of law are key to completing our national missions.

Mr. Chairman, should the Senate choose to confirm me in this position, I would start with three broad challenges. First, to complete the internal management adjustments begun several years ago in response to INL's surge in budget and program responsibilities. The Congress entrusted the INL Bureau with a nearly tenfold increase in resources; the infrastructure required time to catch up with the responsibilities; the process has made great strides over the last two years; and I would hope to complete it to your satisfaction with the appropriate human capital and oversight mechanisms in place. Second, we must work to improve interagency and intergovernmental coordination and partnerships to address the overseas drug and criminal justice challenges before us. The American people have given us all the same mission, and Congress, the resources to carry it out. We owe you a unified response to these threats to the American people. Third and finally, I would hope to develop new and innovative approaches to further U.S. counterdrug, law enforcement, rule of law, and administration of justice interests. There is no shortage of possibilities. We confront surging transnational gangs and violence in our own Hemisphere; increasingly sophisticated drug trafficking networks through Africa; and exploding opium and heroin production in Central Asia. This is a target rich environment.

I realize the INL job is one of the most challenging in the national security community; success will be measured incrementally and failure will be measured immediately; programs will be implemented under the twin microscopes of transparency and publicity, as they should be. I welcome the challenge.

Mr. Chairman, my vision for the future involves frequent and regular consultation with Congress and its staff. Should you choose to confirm me in this position, I would expect to be before you frequently in an ongoing dialogue about what we're doing right and what we might do better. I look forward to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today, and I look forward to your questions.