

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for Nomination Hearing of
Robert Zoellick to be Deputy Secretary of State
February 15, 2005

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to consider the nomination of Robert Zoellick to be Deputy Secretary of State. Ambassador Zoellick has served the last four years as President Bush's United States Trade Representative. He has a distinguished career as a public servant, having worked in high positions at the Treasury Department, the White House, and the State Department during several administrations. He also has excelled in the private sector, having served as Executive Vice President of Fannie Mae.

American credibility in the world, progress in the war on terrorism, and our relationships with our allies will be greatly influenced by the effectiveness of the State Department in the coming years. The State Department functions best when it has the benefit of a talented and experienced Deputy Secretary who is trusted by the President, the Secretary of State, and the Congress. Ambassador Zoellick is highly qualified to meet this challenge.

He will bring to his new job not only the experience in international affairs which he gained as our trade representative, but also an intimate working knowledge of his new responsibility, the State Department. Under the first President Bush, Ambassador Zoellick served as Undersecretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, as well as counselor to Secretary of State James Baker. During that time, he played a major role in many important developments across the globe. He was a senior official at the "Two Plus Four" talks that helped bring about German unification; he was the lead State Department official involved in launching the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum; and he played an important role in the State Department's efforts to bring peace to El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Ambassador Zoellick also has displayed an excellent capacity to work with Congress. In 1991, he, along with other officials from the first Bush administration, spent many hours briefing Congress on what was then called "fast-track authority" to enable the President to negotiate trade agreements. Eleven years later, as the U.S. Trade Representative, he served as one of the point men in an effort to renew fast-track authority. His tireless efforts helped win approval for what we now call Trade Promotion Authority -- one of the most important legislative victories of President Bush's first term. I also am pleased to note that he worked with Congress to expand the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which I introduced, and to pass the Vietnam Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement with Jordan.

The Committee expects that Ambassador Zoellick will bring to the deputy secretary's job the same energy and hard work he devoted to his role as our chief trade negotiator. In four years, he successfully negotiated free trade agreements with Singapore, Chile, Australia, Morocco, and Bahrain, as well as CAFTA, a free-trade pact with five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. He started trade talks with Thailand, Panama, the Andean countries, and the South African Customs Union. He has worked with the Congress to get many of the completed agreements enacted into law. He did all this while overseeing the launch of the current Doha round of multilateral trade talks, involving 144 countries. The issues involved in the Doha round, particularly its goal of changing the current worldwide system of agriculture subsidies, are very significant but also very sensitive for

the United States, the European Union and developing countries. Ambassador Zoellick has done an excellent job of handling a difficult and often contentious assignment.

During the last four years, the Foreign Relations Committee has enjoyed a close relationship with the Deputy Secretary of State's office. Deputy Secretary Armitage has been a good friend of the Committee who appeared before us numerous times. He testified on many of the most critical foreign policy topics, including Iraq, Iran, and North Korea. We counted on him for innumerable consultations, and he took personal interest in Committee initiatives, including our efforts to strengthen the State Department's post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction capabilities and to improve non-proliferation programs. We are eager to establish a similar relationship with Ambassador Zoellick, and I am confident that we will do so.

Ambassador Zoellick, we welcome you to the Committee. We look forward to a dialogue that will illuminate your thoughts on the direction of U.S. foreign policy, the management of the State Department, and many other topics.

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