

**Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate**

**Testimony  
Ambassador-Designate Robert Stephen Beecroft  
May 1, 2008**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee to serve as Ambassador to Jordan. I am grateful to the President and Secretary Rice for the confidence they have placed in me. If confirmed, I will do my best to live up to their trust and to work as closely as possible with this Committee to carry out my responsibilities.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by expressing appreciation for my family. My wife, Anne, and my daughters, Blythe and Grace, are here with me today. My two sons are unable to be here because of school obligations. It is my family's support and sacrifice that has, more than anything, helped me carry out my responsibilities as a Foreign Service officer.

Mr. Chairman, we have no closer friend or ally in the Arab world than Jordan. In the Middle East and around the world, Jordan works closely and constructively with us to promote peace and security and to fight terrorism. At home, it is engaged with the sometimes difficult and complicated task of reform, a process that we actively support and encourage.

There is no more telling example of Jordan's positive efforts in the region than its close cooperation with us to help realize a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As one of only two Arab states to sign a peace accord with Israel, Jordan is committed to the Roadmap and is tangibly supporting the process, including by providing police training for Palestinian security forces.

With Iraq, Jordan is actively involved on the humanitarian front, taking in hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees. It has increasingly taken steps to ensure the dignity and well-being of those refugees, opening its schools and hospitals to them, working with the international community to provide assistance, and facilitating our own refugee admissions program. Jordan is also working with us and the Iraqi government to increase security. It has, for example, hosted over 54,000 Iraqi police officers for training.

Outside its immediate region, Jordan was at the forefront in publicly supporting our efforts in Afghanistan, where it has deployed a field hospital and a de-mining unit. Jordan has also become a leading troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide, having sent military and police personnel to Haiti, Cote d'Ivoire, and Darfur, among other places.

Jordan has also begun pursuing reform at home. For example, in 2006, the government rolled out a ten-year roadmap for economic and political development. It then took a step forward by allowing Jordanian monitors to observe its 2007 parliamentary elections. Through our assistance programs, we are supporting Jordan's reform agenda. We are, however, also engaged with its government and its people to encourage broader democratic development. Our efforts include work to expand citizen participation in the country's political and economic systems; strengthen independent media, the judicial system, and the rights of women and laborers; and increase religious tolerance.

If confirmed, I will work diligently with the Jordanian government and people to pursue our democratic reform, development, and security goals and to strengthen the bilateral relationship. I will also work to ensure that all of our assistance effectively and efficiently advances those goals.

I appreciate and value this Committee's oversight of our mission in Jordan. If confirmed, I look forward to welcoming the Committee's members and staff to Amman. Your presence and interest are a vital element in ensuring that we remain productively and successfully engaged with the government and people of Jordan.

Thank you.