
Nominations

[Eisen, Ricciardone, Ford]

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

NOMINEES

HON. NORMAN L. EISEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

HON. FRANCIS JOSEPH RICCIARDONE, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

ROBERT S. FORD, OF VERMONT, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE SYRIAN
ARAB REPUBLIC

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U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:30 p.m. in Room SD-419, Dirksen
2 Senate Office Building, Hon. Jeanne Shaheen presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senator Shaheen [presiding], Menendez, Casey, Coons, and Lugar.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JEANNE SHAHEEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE**

4 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** This hearing will come to order. Good afternoon, everyone.

5 Today we have two panels of nominees, but we're doing this a little differently
6 today. So we're actually going to hear from all three nominees in the first panel, and
7 then we'll do questioning of Mr. Ford in the second panel.

8 We're fortunate to have Senator Lugar here with us, and we want to try and
9 accommodate his schedule, as well as Senator Lieberman's schedule.

10 So on our first panel we will consider the nominations of Norman Eisen to be
11 Ambassador to the Czech Republic and Francis Ricciardone to be Ambassador to the
12 Republic of Turkey. And on our second panel, we will be considering the nomination
13 of Robert Ford to be Ambassador to Syria.

1 Senator Casey from Pennsylvania will be here. He chairs the Subcommittee on
2 Near Eastern Affairs, and he will chair Ambassador Ford's questioning portion of the
3 second panel.

4 All of the posts being considered today are critical in strengthening U.S.
5 influence in safeguarding American interests around the globe. I look forward to
6 discussing the challenges and opportunities the United States faces in these three
7 important countries.

8 Now, as I said, we're doing this a little bit differently today. And one of the
9 differences is that both of our nominees on the first panel were nominated last year to
10 serve in these same positions. I think I chaired one of those nomination hearings last
11 year.

12 But both nominations were thoroughly considered and approved by the Senate
13 Foreign Relations Committee, and both were held up on the Senate floor and were not
14 ultimately confirmed by the full Senate.

15 Seeing the importance of having an Ambassador in these critical countries, the
16 President chose to recess appoint both Ambassador Ricciardone and Ambassador Eisen
17 to their positions. As a result, the two men have been serving as Ambassadors in
18 Prague and Ankara over the course of the last 7 months.

1 As many of you know, a recess appointment by the President lasts for only 1
2 calendar year. So these two men have been renominated and the committee will
3 reconsider their nominations.

4 As the subcommittee Chair on European Affairs, I was supportive of those
5 nominations last year, and I intend to support their nominations once again. Since both
6 men have already been serving in these roles, we'll have an excellent chance to hear
7 from them directly about the challenges they've already seen and their plans for the
8 future.

9 So welcome back to the committee, gentlemen. Thank you both for being willing
10 to go through the nomination process again and to continue to take on these difficult
11 responsibilities at a very important time for our country.

12 So first today, we will consider the U.S. relationship with the Czech Republic. As
13 an important ally of the United States in Central Europe, the Czech Republic has
14 demonstrated exceptional leadership in Europe, particularly with respect to engaging
15 the region's eastern neighborhood and pressing for further European integration.

16 The Czech Republic has made some impressive contributions to international
17 peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo. In addition, the country's
18 unique experience with democratic transitions should provide some lessons for the
19 United States as we navigate the ongoing transitions in the Middle East and North
20 Africa.

1 Today we also consider the U.S. relationship with Turkey. Turkey remains a
2 critical NATO ally with a predominantly Muslim population in a volatile and
3 geopolitically strategic region of the world. Recent events throughout the Middle East
4 and North Africa have increased Turkey's strategic importance as a center of power in
5 this complex region.

6 There is little doubt that Turkey will continue to play an influential role in many
7 of the national security threats facing the United States. I remain a proponent of a
8 strong bilateral relationship with Turkey and its continued integration into Europe.
9 However, it's also important to recognize where we have differences.

10 Turkish troops continue to occupy the Island of Cyprus, and the Turkish
11 Government needs to do more to support a just solution in Cyprus.

12 In addition, Turkey's vote against a fourth round of sanctions on Iran in the U.N.
13 Security Council raises concerns that the U.S. and Turkey do not share the same threat
14 assessment with respect to Iran's nuclear weapons program.

15 So I want to just briefly introduce our two nominees, and I know that Senator
16 Lieberman is here to provide an introduction for Ambassador Eisen, so I will let him do
17 most of that introduction.

18 And as I mentioned previously, Senator Casey will be introducing our second
19 panel nominee, Ambassador Ford, when he gets here.

1 I want to welcome Ambassador Ricciardone, who is a highly distinguished, long-
2 time career Foreign Service Officer. He is the former Ambassador to Egypt, the former
3 Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, and he served previously in Turkey and
4 throughout the Middle East. He speaks a number of languages, including Turkish and
5 Arabic. And finally, and most importantly, from my perspective, he is a graduate of
6 Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

7 So again, congratulations to all of you on your nominations, and I appreciate
8 your willingness to come before the committee.

9 As I said, we're fortunate to have Senator Lugar, who is the ranking member of
10 this committee here with us this afternoon, and I know that he would like to make a
11 statement.

12 Senator Lugar?

**STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
U.S. SENATOR FROM INDIANA**

13 **SENATOR LUGAR.** I am very pleased to join you, Madam Chairman, in
14 welcoming our nominees to three very important countries.

15 And our relationships with these countries are excellent, but we will have an
16 opportunity to review events in each of the three as we welcome Ambassador
17 Ricciardone, Ambassador Eisen, and Ambassador Ford to this committee once again.

18 Turkey is at the center of several critical issues, underscoring its importance as an
19 ally. In particular, I hope that Ambassador Ricciardone's perspective on the recent

1 resignations of Turkey's top military leaders and the effect this will have on political
2 stability will be a part of our discussion.

3 Moreover, we will be interested to hear more about the dynamics related to the
4 upheaval in Syria, Turkey's expanding participation in regional diplomacy, and its
5 ongoing role in the creation of a Southern Energy Corridor.

6 The Czech Republic remains a very important ally of ours in Central Europe. I
7 will be interested from Ambassador Eisen about ramifications of Prague's recent
8 announcement it will not participate in the current plan for the European Phased
9 Adaptive Approach to missile defense.

10 Regional energy interconnections and diversification in the Czech Republic also
11 remains fundamental to the United States and European efforts to improve energy
12 security for the region.

13 Finally, this hearing is an important opportunity for the committee to review
14 events in Syria. The Syrian regime appears committed to the use of violence to
15 suppress the will of its people.

16 In the last few months alone, more than 1,700 people have been killed with more
17 than 10,000 imprisoned. The toll on Syrian civilians, including children, gets worse day
18 by day.

19 Despite the regime's effort to cut off the Internet, cell phones, other forms of
20 communication, the images continue to get out, and the world has borne witness to

1 these brutalities. The causes of peace, stability, and economic advancement would
2 benefit from a swift transition to new leadership and a more representative government
3 for all of the Syrian people.

4 The alternative is almost certainly a cycle of ever-widening violence and the
5 prospect of sectarian conflict.

6 The regime, of course, seems intent on playing up prospects of sectarian strife,
7 has sought the aid of Tehran as a means to hold on to power.

8 We must explore ways to work with our allies to present a clear and unequivocal
9 message to President al-Assad and those around him that the violence must stop and
10 that a credible political transition of reform must begin immediately.

11 I note the Government of Turkey has taken a strong stance in this regard, given
12 the potential for increasing refugee flows. Syria's government and business elite must
13 understand the current path will only deepen their isolation and intensify consequences
14 for the regime and its leaders.

15 I look forward to our discussion with the nominees on these issues and others
16 that they will bring forward from their vast experience in American diplomacy.

17 I thank you.

18 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Thank you very much, Senator Lugar.

19 And, Senator Lieberman, we're delighted to have you with us to introduce Mr.
20 Eisen.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT**

1 Senator Lieberman: Thanks very much, Madam Chair and Senator Lugar. It's an
2 honor to be here.

3 I should express my appreciation to you on behalf of the nominees that you did
4 not join the herd leaving Washington after the vote at noon. And thank you for
5 convening this hearing.

6 I'm here to introduce Ambassador Eisen. I'd be remiss if I didn't simply say that
7 I have had the opportunity to get to know Ambassador Ricciardone and Ambassador
8 Ford, and these are two extraordinary public servants, great, courageous, informed
9 representatives of the United States in the countries on which they have served and are
10 serving now.

11 I'm really honored to be here to introduce Norm Eisen. This is not a political
12 duty. It's really a personal pleasure, because Ambassador Eisen and his wife, Lindsay,
13 and his daughter, Tamar, are personal friends of mine and my family. And as you
14 mentioned, I guess the reason I'm asked is that Norman is one of those stateless people
15 who lives in Washington, D.C., so I occasionally do double duty by introducing such
16 people.

17 As you mentioned, Senator Shaheen, Ambassador Eisen was nominated and
18 given a recess appointment to this point at the end of last year. Prior to his nomination,

1 he had a distinguished career as a lawyer here in Washington, and then was special
2 counsel for ethics and governmental reform in the White House.

3 I regret that it was necessary for the President to make a recess appointment in
4 this case, but perhaps there is a silver lining here in that we can now judge Ambassador
5 Eisen based on his performance over the past 6 months. And that, from all that I have
6 heard, has been really exemplary.

7 Since arriving in Prague, Ambassador Eisen has been a whirlwind of activity,
8 winning plaudits from everyone from the Czech Government to the American Chamber
9 of Commerce, whose leader has said, and I quote, "In your short time in the country,
10 you have already made a significant impact and you have proven to be one of the most
11 effective Ambassadors to hold this post."

12 He has been a tireless advocate for America's national interests in the Czech
13 Republic, whether with regard to imposing sanctions against Iran or winning contracts
14 for American companies.

15 And with your permission, I would like to insert in the record a list of essentially
16 thank yous and testimonials from American companies who have been doing business
17 in the Czech Republic.

18 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]

[COMMITTEE INSERT]

1 **SENATOR LIEBERMAN.** For more than 2 years before Ambassador Eisen arrived in
2 Prague, the U.S. had no Ambassador in the Czech Republic, which spurred doubts and
3 fears among our Czech allies —and as you said, they have really been great allies —
4 about our commitment to their country. This is not a situation that we, in our national
5 interests, should repeat.

6 So I hope that we can confirm, give a full confirmation to Ambassador Eisen this
7 time. The Czech Republic has been an extraordinary partner and ally of the U.S., from
8 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the promotion of democracy worldwide. The
9 Czechs are really now among our best friends and allies in Europe, and they deserve to
10 have an Ambassador from our country that is confirmed by the full Senate.

11 Finally, as you may know, Norman Eisen has a deep personal connection to the
12 Czech Republic, his mother having been born there. Both and she and his father
13 survived the Holocaust, and it is indeed a profound historical justice, an act of justice,
14 that the Ambassador's residence in Prague, which was originally built by a Jewish
15 family that was forced to flee Prague by the Nazis, who in turn the Nazis took over that
16 house as their headquarters now 70 years later, is occupied by Norman and his family.

1 And I might, on a point of personal privilege, add that they observe the Sabbath
2 there every Friday night and Saturday. So if you need any evidence that there is a God,
3 I offer that to you.

4 The story of Norm Eisen and his family and their path back to Europe is a classic
5 American story, a reflection of what our country is about at its very best. And that is
6 also precisely why the Ambassador has proven such an effective representative of our
7 Nation, our interests, and our values; and, again, why I hope the committee can lead the
8 Senate in sending him back to Prague as our Ambassador as quickly as possible.

9 Thank you very much for this opportunity.

10 **SENATOR LUGAR.** Madam Chairman, are there members of the families here?

11 **SENATOR LIEBERMAN.** They are.

12 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Yes, I think we should ask, as you're giving your testimony,
13 Ambassador Eisen and Ricciardone, that you should feel free to introduce your families
14 and let us welcome them as well.

15 **SENATOR LIEBERMAN.** Thank you, Madam Chair and Senator Lugar.

16 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Thank you, Senator Lieberman. Thank you especially for
17 sharing the last story about the residence for the Ambassador.

18 As I said, we are going to begin the panel with Ambassadors Ricciardone and
19 Eisen. And we will also be hearing the opening statement from Ambassador Ford, and
20 then we will save his question and answer period for the second panel.

1 So I will ask you if you could begin, Mr. Eisen? And again, feel free to introduce
2 family or friends who are here with you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. NORMAN L. EISEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

3 **AMBASSADOR EISEN.** Madam Chair, Senator Lugar, Senator Coons, members of
4 the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here again in connection with my
5 nomination by President Obama to continue serving as the United States Ambassador
6 to the Czech Republic.

7 I am honored to have the confidence and the trust of the President, of Secretary
8 Clinton, in representing our country.

9 Since you asked, I would like to introduce my wife, Lindsay Kaplan, an associate
10 professor of English at Georgetown University, and our daughter, Tamar.

11 Representing the United States in Prague is a family effort, and I believe that the
12 Czech people have come to appreciate my family as much as I do —well, almost as
13 much as I do.

14 When I was last before the committee, I reflected upon my extraordinary good
15 fortune as a first-generation American. From the vantage point of our small fast-food
16 restaurant in Los Angeles, where I grew up, my mother, a Czechoslovak Holocaust
17 survivor, and my father, an immigrant from Poland, could never have imagined that
18 their son would someday serve as a United States Ambassador.

1 As Senator Lieberman noted, and as my mother put it recently, just a little more
2 succinctly, "The Nazis took us away in cattle cars, and now my son has returned
3 representing the mightiest nation on Earth."

4 As that sentiment suggests, my mission in the Czech Republic is strongly
5 informed by my deep sense of obligation to this country, to the United States.

6 Since my arrival in Prague in January, I have worked with a talented Embassy
7 team in three principal areas. First, the defense and security relationship between the
8 two countries; second, commercial and economic ties; and third, shared values,
9 particularly the shared values of good governance and of civil rights for all.

10 In each area, the relationship was good. But we have worked with the Czech
11 Government, with officials across the political spectrum, with Czech civil society, and
12 with the Czech people to make it great.

13 In the defense and security realm, the Czechs are staunch allies. Over the past
14 year, they increased their contributions in Afghanistan to over 700 soldiers and
15 civilians. Czech personnel operate in some of the most dangerous parts of the country,
16 and they have suffered numerous casualties there.

17 When I recently visited Afghanistan to thank Czech and U.S. personnel for their
18 service, U.S. soldiers that I met with gave the Czechs high praise. That included
19 General Petraeus, who explained the critically important responsibilities that our Czech

1 allies are carrying out side-by-side and day-by-day with their U.S. partners in
2 Afghanistan.

3 The Czechs are also a staunch friend of Israel and a strong supporter of U.S.
4 policy towards Iran. They are one of our very best allies in Europe on those issues and
5 across the board.

6 In their own neighborhood, the Czech Republic is a leading advocate within the
7 European Union for countries like Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova, through the EU's
8 Eastern Partnership Initiative. Elsewhere, from Cuba to Burma to Belarus to North
9 Korea, the Czechs are champions of human rights.

10 We in Embassy Prague are proud to work with our Czech partners on these
11 issues.

12 Looking ahead to the future of our defense and strategic partnership, we are
13 broadening our security cooperation, developing an approach that goes beyond any
14 single narrow focus to one with multiple areas of specialized cooperation where the
15 Czechs excel. The Czechs are world-class strategic partners in areas ranging from
16 helicopters; to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear mitigation; to PRTs,
17 Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

18 In the economic and commercial area, Embassy Prague has actively advocated
19 for American business during my tenure. We have an open door for U.S. firms, and I
20 have met with dozens of American companies, from the very largest to the smallest.

1 When they have concerns in the Czech Republic, we vigorously work to resolve
2 them, engaging all the way up to the highest levels of government, if necessary. I've
3 also encouraged Czech investment in the U.S., travelling with government officials and
4 Czech businesses to scout business opportunities here that will generate good, high-
5 paying jobs in the United States.

6 In our commercial and economic work, we have particularly emphasized civil
7 nuclear cooperation. The Czechs have six operating nuclear reactors and are planning
8 an expansion worth up to \$27.5 billion. It is one of the largest opportunities for U.S.
9 businesses of its kind anywhere in the world.

10 If Westinghouse, the U.S. competitor, wins that bid, it will mean an estimated
11 9,000 new, good jobs in the United States, across the United States. To support that bid,
12 we have adopted a whole-of-government approach here in the United States and with
13 Embassy Prague to establish a broad civil nuclear strategic partnership between our
14 two countries -- from fostering new relations between U.S. and Czech R&D facilities, to
15 making regulatory exchanges, to working together to improve nuclear safety, our two
16 nations are building a model civil nuclear relationship for the 21st century.

17 My third area of emphasis has been the shared values that bind our two
18 countries together. Czech and Slovak national aspirations in the 20th century were first
19 realized by the Pittsburgh and Washington declarations signed right here in the United

1 States after World War I by President Wilson's great friend and Czechoslovakia's first
2 president, a revered name in my home growing up, Tomas Masaryk.

3 The United States helped liberate Czechoslovakia from the Nazis, supported the
4 resistance against communism, and then helped transform the goals of the Velvet
5 Revolution into reality.

6 I have carried that message of friendship the length and breadth of the country,
7 visiting almost 20 cities and regions outside of Prague in just about 6 months on the job.

8 My message is one of warm friendship but also candor. I have supported the
9 initiatives of those in the Czech Government, the opposition, NGOs, business, and the
10 Czech public who are working for good government and against corruption. I believe
11 we are building a model in Prague of how to respectfully but forcefully engage on those
12 issues.

13 We have also worked with the Czech Government to promote equal rights and
14 opportunities for all Czech citizens, irrespective of their origin or faith, including the
15 Roma. My presence in Prague as the child of a Czechoslovak victim of Nazi
16 persecution is by itself a powerful message in the fight against extremism and for
17 human rights. Working with the talented interagency team at Embassy Prague, I have
18 taken every opportunity to engage with the Czech people and their government to
19 advance our common goals and values.

20 I am so, so honored to be asked to represent our country and our government.

1 Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to
2 appear before you. I welcome any questions you may have.

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6 **SENATOR LUGAR.** Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

7 Ambassador Eisen, the Czech Republic was expected to host missile defense
8 radar under the Bush Administration's missile defense plan for Europe, but that plan
9 was scrapped in 2009 in favor of the so-called phased adaptive approach.

10 Even though Prague recently announced it was not interested in the
11 Administration's current proposal for participation EPAA, it appears open to
12 considering future participation in projects.

13 What do you see as the lay of the land there? Has the discussion in any way
14 disrupted our relationship? And how would you propose we proceed?

15 **AMBASSADOR EISEN.** Thank you, Senator Lugar.

16 It has not. This has not disrupted the relationship. This has been an active
17 subject of conversation.

18 And I am pleased to tell you that the Czech Government is strongly supportive
19 of the NATO missile defense plan, the phased adaptive approach as adopted at Lisbon.

1 You are, of course, quite right that an earlier conversation that we had with the
2 Czech Government about the shared early warning system, which was prior to the
3 adoption of a NATO missile defense strategy at Lisbon, was overtaken by events.

4 The Czechs felt that the limited data that they would receive under the SEW
5 system, the Shared Early Warning, was no longer necessary today because of the
6 broader adoption of the phased adaptive approach.

7 But part of the result of the good conversations, the good partnership between
8 the Czech Government and United States, including the United States Embassy in
9 Prague, has been the strong, strong embrace of the phased adaptive approach as
10 adopted by NATO at Lisbon. So it's full-steam ahead. We're in as good a place as ever
11 on that.

12 **SENATOR LUGAR.** Let me say, you've noted that a key priority for the United
13 States' policy in the Czech Republic is to enhance regional energy security, including
14 diversification. In your view, what are the most pressing areas for cooperation in this
15 sphere?

16 **AMBASSADOR EISEN.** There is a critical energy security issue in the Czech
17 Republic. One hundred percent of the Czech Republic's nuclear fuel is supplied by
18 Russia, 70 percent of their oil, 65 percent of their gas. We've made diversification a
19 priority of our engagement.

1 The greatest single opportunity to achieve energy security is through the
2 expansion of the Czech civil nuclear capacity. They have six outstanding high-
3 functioning nuclear reactors now, and a very strong regulator. Unlike other nations, a
4 very strong national commitment, not just a government commitment, but strong
5 public support, for this critical alternative energy source in the 21st century.

6 And we've really focused there not just on the Westinghouse bid to expand
7 Temelin, which has such a high dollar value, almost \$28 billion potentially, and so
8 many U.S. jobs.

9 But that's really just one part of this partnership, and we have worked very hard
10 on the whole relationship in Embassy Prague, indeed, throughout the United States
11 Government. One of the first things I did was come back to talk to all of the
12 interlocutors and work on a whole-of-government approach to build a 21st century
13 partnership between our two countries that goes beyond just that bid.

14 So we're working on R&D together. We're working on education, on regulation
15 together in both our countries. And that has been an important part of our work.

16 I travelled recently with the Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic to Texas to
17 sign an agreement under our Joint Declaration on Civil Nuclear Cooperation, which we
18 have with the Czechs between Texas A&M University, a leading provider of degrees in
19 civil nuclear engineering, and the Czech CENEN, the Civil Nuclear Engineering

1 Network in the Czech Republic, so our two nations can build in this area in the 21st
2 century.

3 **SENATOR LUGAR.** Is there public support in the Czech Republic? That is,
4 ordinary citizens understand the diversification the problem?

5 **AMBASSADOR EISEN.** There is, Senator Lugar.

6 One of the most gratifying moments for me in returning to my mother's
7 homeland was the rational and the calm approach that the Czech Republic took post-
8 Fukushima to their energy needs, the need for energy security, to diversify energy
9 sources. There is strong national consensus in favor of expanding nuclear, and a strong
10 government consensus.

11 And some of the risk factors that one sees elsewhere, whether it's tsunamis or
12 earthquakes, are not present there. So it is a very, very good location for that expansion.

13 We are very pleased to work, again, not just on that bid, which is certainly
14 important, but on a broad partnership for civil nuclear energy security that is a model of
15 how our two nations can work together.

16 ...

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18 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Thank you, Senator Coons.

19 I have to go to preside over the Senate in just a few minutes, but I did want to
20 raise one more question for Ambassador Eisen before I go.

1 Critics of the Obama Administration's reset policy with Russia have suggested
2 that engagement with Russia would come at the expense of our allies in Central and
3 Eastern Europe. I wonder if you could speak to the Czech Republic's view of the
4 Administration's reset efforts with Russia.

5 **AMBASSADOR EISEN.** I think that the Czech Republic has come to understand
6 and appreciate the spirit of the reset with Russia and the benefits that that confers, not
7 just for the U.S.-Russian relationship but in the region.

8 Of course, the President has made Prague a centerpiece of these issues, going to
9 Prague twice, including —I had the privilege to accompany him last year for the signing
10 of the START Treaty with President Medvedev.

11 I was very pleased. I think it is a token of the — and indeed, more than a token, a
12 recognition of the importance of these issues, that my Czech government colleagues
13 affirmatively embrace the so-called Prague Agenda, and took the bull by the horns and
14 scheduled a conference, an international conference, on the Prague Agenda not long
15 after I arrived in the Czech Republic, to commemorate the one-year anniversary and the
16 two-year anniversary of the President's speeches there.

17 We had representatives from Russia, from the United States, and from around
18 the world come, including Dr. Gary Samore from the White House, one of the principal
19 advisers to the President on these matters, to think about what the long-term benefits
20 can be for the region and for the world.

1 So I think we've made good progress. I could give other examples, but I think
2 we've made good progress on these grounds. It is important to have an Ambassador
3 there to help convey communications in both directions on this subject and I am very
4 pleased with where we are on the reset now.

5 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Thank you very much.

6 Senator Casey or Senator Coons, do either of you have any other questions for
7 this panel?

8 I have a few other questions that we will present in writing for each of you and
9 the record will stay open until close of business on Friday for any further questions
10 from members of the committee.

11 So hearing no further questions, I will thank you both again for your service and
12 your willingness to continue to do this, and hope we can get swift action from the
13 Senate and close this hearing, and turn the gavel over to Senator Casey.

14 Senator Casey [presiding]: We will start our second panel.