

**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**Opening Statement for Hearing on**  
**Nomination of Ambassador Randall Tobias**  
**March 7, 2006**

This morning, the Foreign Relations Committee meets to consider the nomination of Ambassador Randall Tobias, the current Global AIDS Coordinator, to be the new Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Secretary Rice has announced that, if confirmed, Ambassador Tobias would also serve as the first “Director of Foreign Assistance.” In this position he would manage all Department of State and USAID foreign assistance programs; coordinate U.S. foreign assistance strategy; and provide guidance to the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and other aid agencies.

It is a special privilege for me to again welcome Ambassador Tobias to the Committee. He is a fellow Hoosier and a good friend of many years. I am very pleased that he is willing to take on the key role of Administrator of USAID and the challenge of being the first Director of Foreign Assistance.

Prior to becoming the Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Tobias served as Chairman and CEO of Eli Lilly and Company. Before joining Eli Lilly, he rose through the ranks of AT&T to become Chairman and CEO of AT&T International. Throughout his life, Ambassador Tobias has dedicated himself to public service. He has served on numerous charitable and educational boards, including those associated with Duke University, Colonial Williamsburg, the American Red Cross, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. After retiring from Eli Lilly, he formed a charitable foundation that supported many causes, including efforts to improve childhood literacy and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

For the past two years, Ambassador Tobias has undertaken what undoubtedly has been the most important public service mission of his life — serving as the first Global AIDS Coordinator and overseeing the \$15 billion President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or “PEPFAR” as it is commonly known. Under Ambassador Tobias’s leadership, PEPFAR is helping to support life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for more than 400,000 people, most of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, working in close cooperation with international and private organizations, PEPFAR has supported services to approximately 3.2 million women to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and has reached more than 42 million people with prevention programs. Last year, PEPFAR helped provide care for nearly 3 million people in the 15 focus countries, including more than 1.2 million orphans and vulnerable children and more than 1.7 million people living with HIV/AIDS.

With Ambassador Tobias at the helm, PEPFAR is saving lives and helping to slow the spread and devastation of HIV/AIDS, and the United States has become a leader in the global fight against AIDS. As Global AIDS Coordinator, he has helped build the necessary infrastructure to deliver life-saving AIDS drugs in countries where no such infrastructure existed. He has coordinated the global AIDS programs of multiple government agencies, including the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as the United States Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps. At the same time, he has ensured that PEPFAR is collaborating closely with organizations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I am also appreciative of how responsive he has been to this Committee.

Ambassador Tobias's experience as Global AIDS Coordinator, as well as his prior managerial success in the corporate world, have demonstrated his ability to run large, complex enterprises. His knowledge of the difficulties of working in developing countries, his experience with private foundations, and his ability to coordinate multi-agency efforts, would be important assets for USAID, and our overall foreign assistance programs.

I share the President's view that the United States has a moral responsibility to assist developing countries in improving the quality of life of their citizens and to respond to humanitarian crises like the tsunami that devastated South Asia, the earthquake that killed thousands in Pakistan, or the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. But it is also imperative that we recognize that development assistance is critical to our own national security.

Our foreign assistance has played an important part in advancing security since World War II. George Marshall's plan to help rebuild a Europe devastated by war has paid dividends to this country, and indeed to the entire world, many times over. President Kennedy's decisions to ramp up foreign assistance, create USAID and the Peace Corps, and establish the Alliance for Progress helped counter the aggression of the Soviet Union. The decisions of subsequent presidents and Congresses to build on these programs contributed to the eventual defeat of Communism.

Today, the United States faces new enemies and unprecedented challenges. The President's National Security Strategy recognizes that current threats to the United States arise less from foreign military aggression than from the consequences of failing or failed states. Devoting resources to strengthening democracies, building free markets, and fighting corruption in nations that might otherwise become havens or breeding grounds for terrorists is an essential element of our national security strategy.

The President has properly sought to increase our foreign aid budget to address these threats. As programs expand, it is vital that they be carefully coordinated and prioritized. Secretary Rice, in announcing the creation of the new position of Director of Foreign Assistance, has proposed a new framework intended to better coordinate and streamline U.S. programs. It is her belief, and our hope, that this change will improve the overall effectiveness of our foreign assistance programs.

Transforming the State Department, Secretary Rice has said, "is the work of a generation – but it is urgent work that cannot be deferred." Transforming our foreign assistance programs, I would add, is no less urgent and important. We realize that the efforts by the Secretary to restructure U.S. foreign assistance will be an on-going process. When she testified before this Committee recently, the Secretary stated that she would like to work with the Congress on this effort. Our Committee looks forward to beginning that dialogue today with Ambassador Tobias.

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