

**Nomination Hearing**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**Opening Statement of Chairman Richard G. Lugar**  
**March 8, 2006**

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to discuss the nominations of Mr. Terry Miller to be the U.S. Representative to the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations and Mr. John Simon to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Mr. Miller is a Foreign Service Officer with three decades of service in diplomatic and policy positions. His assignments have included extensive service related to the operations of multilateral organizations in general and the United Nations in particular. He served from 1982 to 1986 in New York as the Deputy Counselor to our Mission to the United Nations. He followed this with four years in Paris as the U.S. observer to UNESCO. More recently, Mr. Miller has served in the State Department's Bureau of International Organizations – our government's primary interface with the United Nations – first as the Director of the Office of Economic and Development Affairs and currently as a Deputy Assistant Secretary.

The Economic and Social Council, better known as ECOSOC, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Its primary function is to coordinate the agencies and commissions related to international economic and social development. ECOSOC serves as the U.N.'s central forum for formulating policy recommendations regarding the promotion of higher standards of living, employment, and social progress. It initiates studies and reports on these issues and organizes related international conferences.

Mr. Miller would serve as the coordinator and director of the United States delegation to ECOSOC and as our principal spokesman at the Council. He would also oversee U.S. policy with regard to economic and social matters considered in the General Assembly and in other U.N. organizations.

Our second nominee is Mr. John Simon, who has been nominated to be the Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). He is currently the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Relief, Stabilization and Development at the National Security Council. Prior to his service on the NSC, he was Deputy Assistant Administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Director of Business and Finance at Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare.

As Executive Vice President, Mr. Simon would work closely with the President of OPIC. He would help oversee an agency whose mission is to facilitate the participation of United States private enterprise in the economic advancement of less developed countries and areas, as well as countries in transition from non-market to market economies. OPIC operates in approximately 150 countries and areas worldwide.

OPIC's programs support private investment in less-developed countries by reducing risks, particularly currency inconvertibility, expropriation, and political violence. OPIC is authorized to finance investment through loans, guarantees, and insurance. It does so by charging its clients fees, similar to a private financial institution. Therefore, it operates on a self-sustaining basis without cost to the U.S. taxpayer. OPIC's authority to guarantee and insure U.S. investments abroad is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. This is critically important at a time when American companies are seeking to compete and prosper in the global marketplace.

I congratulate each of our nominees. I ask that you deliver your statements in the order that you were introduced. If you are summarizing a statement, the text of your entire presentation will be included in the hearing record. Also, please introduce family and friends that may have accompanied you on this important occasion.

###