

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for Hearing on
U.S.-India Atomic Energy Cooperation
April 26, 2006

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to continue its examination of the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement. On April 5, the Committee met in open session with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. On March 29, we examined the agreement in closed session with Under Secretaries Nick Burns and Bob Joseph. Today, we will have the opportunity to hear the views of eight esteemed experts from outside the U.S. government.

Some months ago, I submitted 82 questions related to the agreement to the State Department as an initial step toward establishing a dialogue that would help Congress make an informed decision. The State Department provided answers to those 82 questions. After the hearing with Secretary Rice, I submitted about 90 additional questions for the record. The Ranking Member and several other members of the Committee also submitted questions after the hearing. We appreciate the Administration's attention to these questions as the Committee carefully works through the intricacies of the nuclear agreement with India.

The Committee is cognizant of how valuable a closer relationship with India could be for the United States. At our last hearing, many members commented on the importance of improving ties with India. Our nations share common democratic values, and the potential of our economic engagement is limitless.

Energy cooperation between the United States and India is particularly important. India's energy needs are expected to double by 2025. The United States has an interest in expanding energy cooperation with India to develop new technologies, cushion supply disruptions, cut green house gas emissions, and prepare for declining global fossil fuel reserves. The United States' own energy problems will be exacerbated if we do not forge energy partnerships with India, China, and other nations experiencing rapid economic growth. That is why I have introduced S. 2435, the Energy Diplomacy and Security Act, which would encourage international energy dialogues and advance a broad range of energy diplomacy goals.

But even as we pursue closer ties with India, we must examine the implications and risks of initiating a cooperative nuclear relationship. India has not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty; it has built and tested nuclear weapons; and it has declared its intention to continue its nuclear weapons programs and the production of fissile material. If Congress approves this agreement, we will be establishing a new course after decades of declining any cooperation with India's nuclear program. Consequently, our Committee has spent much time probing the details of the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement.

Among many questions, we are attempting to evaluate the potential benefits of drawing India into a deeper relationship with the International Atomic Energy Agency and placing more Indian reactors under safeguards. The Committee has also expressed great interest in the timing and sequence of how the India Nuclear Agreement would be implemented. Since the Committee last met with Secretary Rice, India has initiated discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency on a safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. This is a welcome development, but I urge India and

the IAEA to work hard to conclude an effective agreement in a timely fashion. All parties involved in the negotiations, including the Bush Administration, should facilitate the maximum amount of transparency possible, so that Congress is better equipped to make informed judgments.

Today we will hear from two panels of highly knowledgeable experts. Our first panel will focus on the strategic dynamics of the agreement, and the second panel will take up the question of the non-proliferation implications of nuclear cooperation between the United States and India.

On our first panel, we welcome the distinguished former Secretary of Defense William Perry. Presently, he is Co-Director of the Preventive Defense Project. He is joined by Dr. Ashton Carter, also a Co-Director of the Preventive Defense Project and a former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. Joining them will be Dr. Robert Gallucci, Dean of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown. Dr. Gallucci served as a chief U.S. negotiator during the 1994 crisis over North Korea's nuclear program. Finally, Dr. Ashley Tellis is with us from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dr. Tellis played a leading role in the formulation of the U.S.-India nuclear agreement, serving in key State Department positions.

On our second panel, we welcome Dr. Ronald Lehman, director of the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and formerly the head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Mr. Robert Einhorn, a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and formerly Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation; Dr. Gary Milhollin, Director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control; and Dr. Stephen Cohen, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

We are pleased to have with us so many good friends of the Committee. Most of our witnesses have provided invaluable service to the Foreign Relations Committee as we have struggled with non-proliferation and other geo-political issues. We thank each of them for their willingness to again lend us their extraordinary expertise.

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