

**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for the
Nomination of Jackie Sanders and Mark Wallace
January 25, 2006**

The Foreign Relations Committee meets today to consider two nominations to key U.S. diplomatic positions at the United Nations. President Bush has nominated Ambassador Jackie Sanders to be the Alternative Representative to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs and Mr. Mark Wallace to be the Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform. Both of these positions come with the rank of ambassador. We welcome our nominees and look forward to our discussions with them.

Ambassador Sanders has just completed two years in Geneva as our representative to the Conference on Disarmament. From 2001 to 2003, she served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of International Organizations. She has held numerous positions in the Executive Branch and on Capitol Hill throughout a twenty-year career of public service.

The Special Political Affairs ambassador is devoted to matters involving the U.N. Security Council. We are entering a period when the Security Council may render judgments on a series of issues that are central to the interests of the United States. These include whether the Security Council will take steps to prevent Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons, whether it will support expanded U.N. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, and whether it will authorize a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Darfur. During this critical period, Ambassador Sanders would serve as a liaison to the Security Council and would work with Ambassador John Bolton in communicating U.S. policy at the United Nations.

President Bush has selected Mark Wallace to be our representative for U.N. Management and Reform. Mr. Wallace comes before us with an extensive legal background, both in the private and public sector. His professional career has included work in the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security.

As Ambassador for U.N. Management and Reform, Mr. Wallace would oversee U.S. interests with regard to the finances and management of the United Nations. Achieving U.N. reform is an important goal of U.S. foreign policy. This Committee and others in Congress have focused much attention on how we can encourage and support effective reforms at the United Nations. In addition to the Oil for Food scandal detailed by Paul Volcker, Senator Norm Coleman, and others, recent revelations about kick-backs and waste in the U.N.'s own procurement division and about sexual abuse scandals associated with peacekeeping operations have damaged the U.N.'s credibility.

Significant reforms are needed in both the financial and personnel sectors of the United Nations. Many straightforward reform ideas that would establish greater oversight and transparency, including the creation of an ethics office, the strengthening of whistleblower protections, and an overhaul of the U.N. procurement system, could be implemented quickly with positive results.

As part of this reform process, I am pleased to hear that every U.N. mandate older than five years is under review. Our representatives at the U.N. must work to redirect resources away from out-dated mandates so that they can be focused on the world's most pressing problems. A proposed staff buyout is also being considered. I support such a move, if it allows better qualified staff to be hired for new initiatives, rather than simply "re-hatting" current staff to address problems for which they have little experience.

The U.N.'s ability to organize burden sharing and take over missions best handled by the international community is critical to the long-term success of U.S. foreign policy. Americans cannot afford to approach the United Nations purely out of unilateral frustration. Rather, we have to show resolute leadership that will drive reform toward a constructive outcome that will reinvigorate the United Nations. We must explain why these reforms are necessary and how they will help the world community. If we can create international momentum, we have a unique opportunity to achieve an objective that has long been sought by both critics and supporters of the United Nations.

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.

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