

## US Amb. Power Senate Hearing Speech 2013

MS. POWER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO START YOUR TESTIMONY. IF YOU HAVE FAMILY OR FRIENDS HERE, YOU'RE -- PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INTRODUCE THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY OF YOURSELF BUT FAMILY, AND WE APPRECIATE THAT. YOUR FULL STATEMENT WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD, WITHOUT OBJECTION. AND THE FLOOR IS YOURS. >>

THANK YOU, SIR. AND THANK YOU, RANKING MEMBER CORKER AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE. IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S NOMINEE TO SERVE AS THE U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE THE PRIVILEGE OF A LIFETIME. I AM GRATEFUL TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PLACING HIS TRUST IN ME. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY FRIENDS AND MY REMARKABLE FAMILY -- MY PARENTS, WHO BROUGHT ME HERE FROM IRELAND, VERA DELANEY AND EDMUND BOURKE, MY HUSBAND CASS SUNSTEIN, AND OUR CHILDREN, 4- YEAR-OLD DECLAN, AND 1-YEAR-OLD RYAN, WHO HAS ALREADY PROVEN LESS INTERESTED IN THIS HEARING THAN OTHERS HERE TODAY.  
[LAUGHTER]

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK SENATOR CHAMBLISS AND SENATOR ISAKSON FOR THEIR GENEROUS, REMARKABLE INTRODUCTIONS. GROWING UP AS AN IRISH IMMIGRANT IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, I CAN'T SAY THAT THE U.N. WAS A POPULAR TOPIC WITH MY CLASSMATES AT LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL. BUT IT WAS IN GEORGIA, WHILE WORKING AT THE SAME LOCAL TELEVISION STATION, THAT I WITNESSED FOOTAGE OF THE MASSACRE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE AND RESOLVED THEN THAT I WOULD DO WHAT I COULD FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE TO STAND UP FOR AMERICAN VALUES AND TO STAND UP FOR FREEDOM. [...]

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS COUNTRY, I VIEWED THE U.N. AS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ASSEMBLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. [...] THE U.N. IS OF COURSE MULTIFACETED AND ITS RECORD MIXED. IT WAS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE U.N. THAT I TRAVELLED IN 2004 TO DARFUR WHERE I DISCOVERED A MASS GRAVE AND MANY CHARCOALED VILLAGES , HALLMARKS OF THE GENOCIDE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE SUDANESE GOVERNEMENT. TODAY IT IS THE W.H.O THAT IS HELPING TO PROVIDE POLIO VACCINATIONS EVEN AS TERRORIST WAGE AN ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOCTORS. AND LAST FRIDAY IT WAS THE U.N. THAT PROVIDED A STAGE FOR MALALA, THE BRAVE YOUNG FOR PAKISTANI GIRL WHO WAS SHOT LAST YEAR BY THE TALIBAN ON HER WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL. TOGETHER, SHE AND THE U.N. WILL INSPIRE MILLIONS TO STAND UP FOR GIRLS EDUCATION.

YET ALONGSIDE ALL OF THIS, WITHIN THE U.N., ORGANIZATION BUILT IN PART TO APPLY THE LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST, WE ALSO SEE UNACCEPTABLE ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE SEE THE ABSURDITY OF IRAN CHAIRING THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. WE SEE THE FAILURE OF THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO RESPOND TO THE SLAUGHTER IN SYRIA -- A DISGRACE THAT HISTORY WILL JUDGE HARSHLY. WHAT IS ALSO CLEAR, 68 YEARS AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS WAS FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO, IS THAT AN EFFECTIVE U.N. DEPENDS ON EFFECTIVE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP. THE WAR IN BOSNIA DIDN'T END BECAUSE THE U.N. ACTED, IT ENDED BECAUSE PRESIDENT CLINTON, BACKED BY

A BIPARTISAN COALITION IN CONGRESS, INCLUDING SENATOR MCCAIN, TOOK ROBUST ACTION. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION IN AFRICA NOT MERELY BECAUSE OF THE ESSENTIAL WORK OF UNAIDS, BUT BECAUSE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH DECIDED TO PROVIDE LIFE- SAVING DRUGS ON A MASSIVE SCALE.

I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA CANNOT -- INDEED, I KNOW THAT AMERICA SHOULD NOT -- POLICE EVERY CRISIS OR SHELTER EVERY REFUGEE. WHILE OUR GOODWILL KNOWS NO BOUNDS, OUR RESOURCES ARE OF COURSE FINITE, STRAINED BY PRESSING NEEDS AT HOME. AND WE ARE NOT THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN. WE MUST MAKE CHOICES BASED ON THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND OTHER COUNTRIES MUST SHARE THE COSTS AND BURDENS OF ADDRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS. THERE ARE CHALLENGES THAT CROSSBORDERS THAT THE UNITED STATES ALONE CANNOT MEET.THERE ARE CASES -- AS WITH SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN AND NORTH KOREA -- WHERE U.S. EFFORTS PACK FAR MORE PUNCH WHEN WE ARE JOINED BY OTHERS.

THERE ARE OCCASIONS -- AS IN MALI TODAY -- WHEN THE U.N. HAS TO STEP UP TO PREVENT STATE FAILURE, WHICH ABETS TERRORISM. AN EFFECTIVE U.N. IS CRITICAL TO A RANGE OF U.S. INTERESTS. FIRST, THE U.N. MUST BE FAIR. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO GREATER FRIEND IN THE WORLD THAN THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE SHARE SECURITY INTERESTS, WE SHARE CORE VALUES, AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. AND YET THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL CONTINUE TO PASS ONE-SIDED RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING ISRAEL.

ISRAEL -- NOT IRAN, NOT SUDAN, NOT NORTH KOREA -- IS THE ONE COUNTRY WITH A FIXED PLACE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S AGENDA. ISRAEL'S LEGITIMACY SHOULD BE BEYOND DISPUTE, AND ITS SECURITY MUST BE BEYOND DOUBT. AND JUST AS I HAVE DONE AS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S U.N. ADVISER AT THE WHITE HOUSE, I WILL STAND UP FOR ISRAEL AND WORK TIRELESSLY TO DEFEND IT. SECOND, THE U.N. MUST BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE.

IN THESE DIFFICULT BUDGET TIMES, WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE CUTTING BACK, THE U.N. MUST DO THE SAME. THIS MEANS ELIMINATING WASTE, STRENGTHENING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS, ENDING ANY TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION AND GETTING OTHER COUNTRIES TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE. IT MEANS CLOSING DOWN THOSE MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS THAT NO LONGER MAKE SENSE. THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT AND THE DUTY TO INSIST ON REFORM, AND IF CONFIRMED, I WILL AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE THIS CAUSE.

THIRD, THE U.N. MUST STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY, WHICH ARE AMERICAN VALUES AND UNIVERSAL VALUES. TODAY, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS WIDELY HAILED AND YET ONLY SELECTIVELY HEHEDED.TAKING UP THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IS NOT JUST THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT IS OF COURSE THE SMART THING TO DO. COUNTRIES THAT VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WILL NEVER APPROACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. COUNTRIES THAT DON'T PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CREATE CLEAVAGES THAT DESTABILIZE WHOLE REGIONS. IF I AM GIVEN THE HONOR OF SITTING BEHIND THE SIGN THAT SAYS "UNITED STATES," I WILL DO WHAT AMERICA DOES BEST, STAND UP AGAINST REPRESSIVE REGIMES AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS. I WILL

ALSO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO GET OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. THIS MEANS CONTESTING THE CRACKDOWN ON CIVIL SOCIETY BEING CARRIED OUT IN COUNTRIES LIKE CUBA, IRAN, RUSSIA AND VENEZUELA. IT MEANS CALLING ON THE WORLD TO UNITE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND AGAINST THE GROTESQUE ATROCITIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE ASSAD REGIME. AND IT MEANS UNITING PEOPLES WHO LONG TO LIVE FREE OF FEAR IN THE CAUSE OF FIGHTING TERRORISM.

MR. CHAIRMAN, RANKING MEMBER CORKER AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THE LATE AMBASSADOR, MY FRIEND RICHARD HOLBROOKE, TOLD THIS COMMITTEE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD BE IN ON THE TAKEOFFS, NOT JUST THE LANDINGS. I APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY NOT JUST TO SEEK YOUR SUPPORT BUT TO ASK TO JOIN YOU IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW TO STRENGTHEN WHAT IS RIGHT AND FIX WHAT IS WRONG AT THE U.N. IF I AM CONFIRMED, I WILL CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY. AND IF THE PROSPECT OF VISITING THE U.N. DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY ENTICE YOU, MY SON DECLAN HAS RESOLVED TO BECOME A TOUR GUIDE LIKE NO OTHER.  
[LAUGHTER]

IF I AM GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF SITTING BEHIND AMERICA'S PLACARD, BEHIND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON ME. I WILL FIGHT FIERCELY EVERY DAY FOR WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I WILL BE A BLUNT, OUTSPOKEN CHAMPION OF AMERICAN VALUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. I WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU AND FORTHRIGHT IN MY DIALOGUE WITH YOU. AND ABOVE ALL, I WILL SERVE AS A PROUD AMERICAN, AMAZED THAT YET AGAIN THIS COUNTRY HAS PROVIDED AN IMMIGRANT WITH SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY -- HERE, THE ULTIMATE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES AND FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN VALUES AT THE UNITED NATIONS. THANK YOU, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS. >>