

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-84

RE: C.R. NO. 15-82/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ISMAEL DOBICH TO BE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

FEBRUARY 18, 2008

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Third Regular Session, 2008

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 15-82, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF ISMAEL DOBICH TO BE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

Your Committee on External Affairs to which was submitted the matter of the nomination of Ismael Dobich as Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, begs leave to report as follows:

Your committee held a confirmation hearing with the nominee on February 7, 2008. Present were Chairman Welly, Vice-Chairman Aritos, Speaker Figir, Floor Leader Suka, Senators Neth, Urusemal, Sitan, Nelson, and Paul. Witnesses included the nominee, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and various Foreign Affairs staff.

The nominee stated that he was honored to be nominated to serve the country as Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs. To the nominee this was a "call to duty", and he asserted that his firm belief in God and his previous experience in the Chuuk Department of Public Affairs (dealing with protocol matters) and with PREL qualified him for the position, because of his acquired skills in managing people. In addition, he had received diplomatic training for 2 weeks in Honolulu and one week in Fiji.

The nominee has a BA in Public Administration from the University of Guam and some graduate work in business administration, also at the University of Guam. He has worked for 10 years as Executive Director for the Truk Organization for Community Action where he dealt with US

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federal programs. Most recently he was the National Election Commissioner for Chuuk and a National Election Consultant.

Asked what he believed the duties of the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs were, the nominee stated that his duties were:

- to perform tasks as instructed by the Secretary; and
- to head the department in the Secretary's absence.

To the question as to what were the main foreign policy issues facing the nation, the nominee stated that he would work closely with the Secretary and the President to educate himself, since there was always a "grace period" for any new job. He believes, however, that the image problem connected with the passports in Washington is an issue to be dealt with promptly. On the issue of whether to maintain the New York mission, the nominee agreed with the previous testimony of Yosiwo George (the nominee attended Mr. George's confirmation hearing) to the effect that the New York mission should not be downgraded.

Asked how he decided to change his job objective from Election Commissioner to foreign affairs, the nominee replied that it was at the President's urging.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs testified that he supported the President's nomination, and that the nominee's background would complement his own. Assistant Secretary Kandhi Elieisar also testified that the deputy secretary position needed to be filled quickly, and that the nominee's management skills would assist the department greatly.

Your committee is concerned by the nominee's lack of foreign affairs experience but is willing to defer to the President and to the strong endorsement from the Department.

Your committee supports the confirmation of Ismael Dobich as Deputy Secretary of Foreign and urges Congress to approve his nomination expeditiously.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 15-82 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth
Dion G. Neth, member

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul, member