

Updated May 9, 2005

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Washington, DC 20510-6225
FAX: 202-224-0836

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
439 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
FAX: 202-228-3612

Dear Senator Lugar and Senator Biden,

We have noted with appreciation the moves of President Bush at the beginning of his second term to improve U.S. relations with the countries of the European Union and of the United Nations. Maintaining these ties and the willingness of those countries to cooperate with the United States is essential to U.S. security.

It is for this reason that we write you to express our concern over the nomination of John R. Bolton to be permanent representative of the United States at the United Nations. We urge you to reject that nomination.

By virtue of service in the State Department, USAID and Justice Departments, John Bolton has the professional background needed for this position. But his past activities and statements indicate conclusively that he is the wrong man for this position at a time when the UN is entering a critically important phase of modernization, seeking to promote economic development and democratic reforms and searching for ways to cope better with proliferation crises and a spurt of natural disasters and internal conflicts.

John Bolton has an exceptional record of opposition to efforts to enhance U.S. security through arms control. He led a campaign against ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Today, the administration is pressing for development of new types of nuclear weapons. John Bolton blocked more extensive international agreement to limit sales of small arms, the main killer in internal wars. He led the fight to continue U.S. refusal to participate in the Ottawa Landmine Treaty. Today, the U.S. has joined Russia and China in insisting on the right to continue to deploy anti-personnel landmines. John Bolton crafted the U.S. withdrawal from the joint efforts of 40 countries to formulate a verification system for the Biological Weapons Convention and blocked continuation of these efforts in a period of increasing concern over potential terrorist use of these weapons and of terrorist access to the stocks of countries covertly producing these weapons. John Bolton's unsubstantiated claims that Cuba and Syria are working on biological weapons further discredited the effect of U.S. warnings and U.S. intelligence on weapons of mass destruction.

John Bolton led the successful campaign for U.S. withdrawal from the treaty limiting missile defenses (ABM Treaty). The effects of this action included elimination of the sole treaty barrier to the weaponization of space. In the face of decades of votes in the UN General Assembly calling for negotiation of a treaty to block deployment of weapons in space, he has blocked negotiation in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament of a treaty on this subject. The administration has repeatedly proposed programs calling for weapon deployment in space.

As chief negotiator of the 2002 Moscow Treaty on withdrawing U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons from field deployment, John Bolton structured a treaty without its own verification regime,

without required progress reports from both sides, without the requirement to destroy warheads withdrawn from deployment, and without provision for negotiating continued reductions. Under his guidance, the State Department repudiated important consensus agreements reached in the year 2000 Review Conference of the Non-proliferation Treaty and has even blocked the formulation of an agenda for the next review conference to be held in May 2005.

Under John Bolton as Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, the State Department has continued to fail to resolve the impasse with Russia about the legal liability of U.S. personnel working with Russia on the security of the huge arsenal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of the former Soviet Union and has failed to accelerate measures aimed at the safety and security of this huge arsenal from theft, illegal sale and terrorist access.

John Bolton's insistence that the UN is valuable only when it directly serves the United States, and that the most effective Security Council would be one where the U.S. is the only permanent member, will not help him to negotiate with representatives of the remaining 96% of humanity at a time when the UN is actively considering enlargement of the Security Council and steps to deal more effectively with failed states and to enhance the UN's peacekeeping capability.

John Bolton's work as a paid researcher for Taiwan, his idea that the U.S. should treat Taiwan as a sovereign state, and that it is fantasy to believe that China might respond with armed force to the secession of Taiwan do not attest to the balanced judgment of a possible U.S. permanent representative on the Security Council. China is emerging as a major world power and the Taiwan issue is becoming more acute.

At a time when the UN is struggling to get an adequate grip on the genocidal killing in Darfur, Sudan, Mr. Bolton's skepticism about UN peacekeeping, about paying the UN dues that fund peacekeeping, and his leadership of the opposition to the International Criminal Court, originally proposed by the U.S. itself in order to prosecute human rights offenders, will all make it difficult for the U.S. to play an effective leadership role at a time when the UN itself and many member states are moving to improve UN capacity to deal with international problems.

Given these past actions and statements, John R. Bolton cannot be an effective promoter of the U.S. national interest at the UN. We urge you to oppose his nomination.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Terrell E. Arnold

Former Deputy Director, Office of Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State (Reagan)

Former U.S. Consul General, Sao Paulo, Brazil (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Harry G. Barnes, Jr.

Former U.S. ambassador to Romania, Chile, and India (Nixon, Ford, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert L. Barry

Former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria and Indonesia (Reagan, Clinton)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs (Carter)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (Carter)

Ambassador Josiah H. Beeman

Former U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Maurice M. Bernbaum

Former U.S. ambassador to Ecuador and Venezuela (Eisenhower, Johnson)

Ambassador (ret.) Jack R. Binns

Former U.S. ambassador to Honduras (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard J. Bloomfield

Former U.S. ambassador to Ecuador and Portugal (Ford, Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Peter Bridges

Former U.S. ambassador to Somalia (Reagan)

Ambassador George Bruno

Former U.S. ambassador to Belize (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Edward Brynn

Former U.S. ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ghana (G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of African Affairs (Clinton)

Ambassador George Bunn

Former member of U.S. delegation to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) negotiations (Johnson)

Former U.S. ambassador to the Geneva Disarmament Conference (UN) (Johnson)

Ambassador (ret.) A. Peter Burleigh

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asia (Reagan)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research (G.H.W. Bush)

Former Ambassador and Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism, Department of State (G.H.W. Bush)

Former Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives (Clinton)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Personnel (Clinton)

Former U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN and Acting Permanent Representative to the UN (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Patricia M. Byrne

Former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council (Reagan)

Former U.S. ambassador to Mali and Burma (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) James Cheek

Former U.S. ambassador to Sudan and Argentina (G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Paul M. Cleveland

Former U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa and Malaysia (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush)

Former U.S. representative to the Korean Energy Development Organization (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Carleton S. Coon

Former U.S. ambassador to Nepal (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Jane Coon

Former U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) James F. Creagan

Former U.S. ambassador to Honduras (Clinton)

Former U.S. Consul General, Sao Paulo, Brazil (G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) T. Frank Crigler

Former U.S. ambassador to Rwanda and Somalia (Ford, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) John H. Crimmins

Former U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic and Brazil (Johnson, Nixon, Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard T. Davies (signed before he passed away on March 30, 2005)

Former U.S. ambassador to Poland (Nixon, Ford, Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) John Gunther Dean

Former Deputy for CORDS, Military Region 1, Vietnam (Nixon)

Former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, Denmark, Lebanon, Thailand, India (Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Jonathan Dean

Former U.S. representative to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks, Vienna (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Willard A. DePree

Former U.S. ambassador to Mozambique and Bangladesh (Ford, Reagan, G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert S. Dillon

Former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon (Reagan)

Former Deputy Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Donald B. Easum

Former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria and Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) (Nixon, Ford, Carter)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs (Nixon, Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) William B. Edmondson

Former U.S. ambassador to South Africa (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Nancy H. Ely-Raphel

Former U.S. ambassador to Slovenia (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) James Bruce Engle

Former U.S. ambassador to Dahomey (Nixon, Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard K. Fox

Former U.S. ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Lincoln Gordon

Former U.S. ambassador to Brazil (Kennedy, Johnson)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (Johnson)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert Grey, Jr.

Former U.S. representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Holsey Gates Handyside

Former U.S. ambassador to Mauritania (Ford, Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) William C. Harrop

Former ambassador to Israel, Kenya, and Zaire (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Former Inspector General, U.S. Department of State (Nixon)

Ambassador (ret.) Samuel F. Hart

Former U.S. ambassador to Ecuador (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Arthur A. Hartman

Former U.S. ambassador to France and the Soviet Union (Carter, Reagan)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (Nixon)

Ambassador Ulric Haynes, Jr.

Former U.S. ambassador to Algeria (Carter)

Ambassador Gerald B. Helman

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Geneva (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert T. Hennemeyer

Former U.S. ambassador to Gambia (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) H. Kenneth Hill

Former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria (G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) John L. Hirsch

Former U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Lewis Hoffacker

Former U.S. ambassador to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea (Nixon)

Ambassador (ret.) H. Allen Holmes

Former U.S. ambassador to Portugal (Reagan)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs (Reagan)

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (Clinton)

The Hon. Thomas L. Hughes

Former Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), Department of State (Kennedy, Johnson)

Ambassador (ret.) Dennis Jett

Former U.S. ambassador to Mozambique and Peru (Clinton)

Ambassador James A. Joseph

Former U.S. ambassador to South Africa (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Philip M. Kaiser

Former U.S. ambassador to Senegal, Mauritania, Hungary, Austria (Kennedy, Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert V. Keeley

Former U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius, Zimbabwe, and Greece (Ford, Carter, Reagan)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs (Carter)

Spurgeon M. Keeny, Jr.

Former Deputy Director, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Andrew I. Killgore

Former U.S. ambassador to Qatar (Carter)

Ambassador Henry L. Kimelman

Former U.S. ambassador to Haiti (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Roger Kirk

Former U.S. ambassador to Somalia and Romania (Nixon, Ford, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Dennis H. Kux

Former U.S. ambassador to Ivory Coast (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) James F. Leonard

Former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Ford, Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Samuel W. Lewis

Former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs (Ford)

Former Director of Policy Planning, State Department (Clinton)

Former ambassador to Israel (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Princeton N. Lyman

Former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs (Clinton)

Director, Bureau of Refugee Programs, U.S. Department of State (G.H.W. Bush)

Former U.S. ambassador to South Africa and Nigeria (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) David L. Mack

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard Cavins Matheron

Former U.S. ambassador to Swaziland (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Charles E. Marthinsen

Former U.S. ambassador to Qatar (Carter, Reagan)

Jack Mendelsohn

Deputy Assistant Director of the Strategic Programs Bureau, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) (Reagan)

Senior ACDA representative on U.S. START delegation (Reagan)

Ambassador Carol Moseley-Braun

Former U.S. ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Ambler H. Moss Jr.

Former U.S. ambassador to Panama (Carter, Reagan)

Former Member, U.S.-Panama Consultative Committee (Carter, Reagan, Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Leonardo Neher

Former U.S. ambassador to Burkina Faso (Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) David D. Newsom

Former U.S. ambassador to Libya, Indonesia, the Philippines (Johnson, Nixon, Carter)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs (Nixon)

Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Donald R. Norland

Former U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, and Chad (Johnson, Ford, Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Nancy Ostrander

Former U.S. ambassador to Suriname (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) David Passage

Former U.S. ambassador to Botswana (G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) Edward L. Peck

Former U.S. ambassador to Iraq and Mauritania (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Jack R. Perry

Former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Christopher H. Phillips

Former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN (Nixon)

Former U.S. ambassador to Brunei (G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) Sol Polansky

Former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador Stanley R. Resor

Former Secretary of the Army (Johnson, Nixon)

Former U.S. representative to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks, Vienna (Nixon, Ford, Carter)

Ambassador Nicholas A. Rey
Former U.S. ambassador to Poland (Clinton)

John B. Rhinelander
Deputy Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (Nixon)
Legal adviser to the U.S. Strategic Arms Limitation Delegation (SALT I) (Nixon)

Ambassador (ret.) Stuart W. Rockwell
Former U.S. ambassador to Morocco (Nixon)

Ambassador James R. Sasser
Former U.S. ambassador to the People's Republic of China (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia P. Schneider
Former U.S. ambassador to The Netherlands (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Talcott W. Seelye
Former U.S. ambassador to Tunisia and Syria (Nixon, Ford, Carter)

The Hon. John Shattuck
Former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (Clinton)
Former Chairman, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad (Clinton)
Former U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Thomas W. Simons, Jr.
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs (Reagan)
Former U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and Poland (G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Ambassador Richard Sklar
Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations for Management and Reform (Clinton)

Ambassador Robert Solwin Smith
Former U.S. ambassador to Ivory Coast (Nixon, Ford)
Former Deputy and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Africa (Nixon)
Former Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (Truman, Eisenhower)

Ambassador (ret.) Carl Spielvogel
Former U.S. ambassador to the Slovak Republic (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Monteagle Stearns
Former U.S. ambassador to Greece and Ivory Coast (Ford, Carter, Reagan)
Former Vice President, National Defense University (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Andrew L. Steigman
Former Ambassador to Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe (Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) Michael Sterner

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (Nixon, Ford)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) John Todd Stewart

Former U.S. ambassador to Moldova (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard W. Teare

Former U.S. ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Harry E.T. Thayer

Former U.S. ambassador to Singapore (Carter, Reagan)

The Hon. Hans N. Tuch

Career Minister, U.S. Foreign Service, USIA

Ambassador (ret.) Theresa A. Tull

Former U.S. ambassador to Guyana and Brunei (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel

Former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Carter)

Former U.S. representative to the United Nations, Geneva (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Christopher van Hollen

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs (Nixon)

Former U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka (Nixon, Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) Richard N. Viets

Former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania and Jordan (Carter, Reagan)

Ambassador (ret.) Frederick Vreeland

Former U.S. ambassador to Morocco (G.H.W. Bush)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East (G.H.W. Bush)

Ambassador (ret.) Lannon Walker

Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs (Carter, Reagan)

Former U.S. ambassador to Senegal, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast (Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Alexander F. Watson

Former U.S. ambassador to Peru (Reagan)

Former Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (G.H.W. Bush)

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Melissa F. Wells

Former U.S. ambassador to Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, Mozambique, Zaire, Estonia (Ford, Reagan, Carter, Clinton)

Former U.S. representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Thomas G. Weston

Former Special Coordinator for Cyprus (Clinton, G.W. Bush)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs (Clinton)

Ambassador (ret.) Robert E. White

Former U.S. ambassador to Paraguay and El Salvador (Carter)

Former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) James M. Wilson, Jr.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, East Asia and Pacific Affairs (Nixon)

Coordinator for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Department of State (Ford)

Ambassador (ret.) W. Howard Wriggins

Former U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka (Carter)

Ambassador (ret.) Kenneth S. Yalowitz

Former U.S. ambassador to Belarus and Georgia (Clinton)

cc: The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
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Washington, DC 20520