

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-10

RE: C.R. NO. 15-17

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF LORIN S. ROBERT

JULY 13, 2007

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Fifteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
First Special Session, 2007

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs ("Ex.Aff."), to which was referred C.R. No. 15-17 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF LORIN S. ROBERT
TO BE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Your committee is not unfamiliar with the nominee. Mr. Robert is a long time member of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and has served as Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs under two previous administrations – Presidents Falcam and Urusemal. Congress has confirmed Mr. Robert several times already in the past for that position of Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Nothing since these previous confirmations has occurred to change this committee's trust in Mr. Robert as a Foreign Affairs official.

Mr. Robert has risen through the ranks in the Department and has served with distinction in posts both at the main office and overseas, notably as Deputy Chief of Mission in the important mission in Tokyo. His career spans the entire history of the Department of Foreign Affairs (formerly External Affairs). Throughout it all, Mr. Robert has accumulated a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and technical knowledge of diplomacy.

The academic credentials of the nominee are also first class. Your committee notes that the nominee attended the School of International Service of the American University in Washington DC, and also Oxford University in England.

Mr. Robert has always shown a willingness to assist members of your Committee with matters related to Foreign Affairs. He has taken time to inform and guide Congress when necessary through the arcane practices of diplomacy. He has shown great awareness of the currents and undercurrents of world affairs and has distinguished himself in – among other

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achievements - bringing the Tuna Commission headquarters to the FSM.

Your committee is also satisfied that at this crucial time in our history, with its many foreign affairs challenges, the President has chosen to nominate a professional diplomat to head the Department. Your committee commends the President for that and feels that that choice allays a lot of fear in terms of need for a learning curve.

Your committee held a public hearing on Thursday July 12, 2007 on the nomination. Members of the Department were numerous, and vocal in their support of the nominee, emphasizing the fact that he was a good and fair manager. Positive comments were also received from the staff of NORMA. Your committee is satisfied that if confirmed the nominee would have the internal support needed to further the foreign policy interests of the nation.

Your committee wholeheartedly supports the confirmation of Loren S. Robert as Secretary of Foreign Affairs 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. 15-17 and recommends its adoption.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Roosevelt D. Kansou
Roosevelt D. Kansou, member

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

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Peter Sitan
Peter Sitan, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member