

EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY FAILURE TO-
WARDS THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the massive U.S. failure under the Biden Administration in allowing the Solomon Islands to align with China. The Solomon Islands' shift towards Beijing was not out of the blue as it is the product of a several year effort. Further, the Solomon Islands contains the blood of over 10,000 U.S. Marines who died retaking it from the Japanese, including the infamous battle at Guadalcanal. Thousands of others were maimed and wounded. What our grandfathers paid for in blood, the Chinese have bought with money. This is a national disgrace and we were entirely unprepared for such a significant development in the Pacific Ocean.

This strategic shift truly began in September of 2019 when Prime Minister Sogavare announced the Solomon Islands was switching its 36 year diplomatic ties from Taiwan to China. With no embassy in the country, the U.S. response was limited however the then Trump Administration offered an aid package to the island of Malaita, the nation's largest province, which is openly out spoken against the diplomatic change.

Shortly after the cessation of the failed Afghanistan withdrawal, China increased its meddling in the Solomon Islands. When the people of Malaita were refused an audience before Prime Minister Sogavare violent riots broke out across the capital. While U.S. allies responded at first, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) soon filled the gap with their own police and police gear.

To any international observer the CCP strategy is clear. Shift allegiances, make the Solomon Islands politically and economically dependent on Beijing through Belt and Road Initiative investment and projects, and make the Solomon Islands' government security based on CCP personnel and equipment. Yet there is no action from the Biden Administration. Finally, in February 2020, three years after the Solomon Island's shift from Taiwan, the Biden Administration announced its Indo-Pacific Strategy and Secretary Blinken states that the U.S. will reopen an embassy. This is much too late.

Just last week, Solomon Island officials confirm that a police deal has been signed with China and that a larger security deal is in the finalization phase. The deal grants Chinese police and security the right to assist the security of the island and to protect Chinese personnel and projects there. It would, most concerningly, allow People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy ships to carry out logistical stops at the island, which likely opens the door to a PLA naval base on the Solomon Island, 1,400 miles from our ally Australia and extending the CCP's military reach and influence towards the U.S. and its allies.

We are watching the CCP's soft and hard power operate in real time, blending its growing economic, political, and military might to slowly take control of a country, creeping closer to becoming a regional hegemon in an ocean the U.S. shares a border with and did

\$1.75 trillion in two way trade and whose economy accounts for 60 percent of the global GDP.

The reality is that Biden Administration has been wrong or too slow on every major foreign policy issue since taking office. The failure of this Administration with the Solomon Islands proves it cannot walk and chew gum at the same time, distracted by its failed withdrawal operation in Afghanistan, paralyzed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, distracted with re-entering into a diplomatic deal which makes concessions with the world's state sponsor of terrorism, or too focused on entering into abstract climate and tax deals with foreign nations and international organizations.

For decades, the American people were told by our governing and economic elites that the People's Republic of China under the CCP was not a threat. That it would develop and align with the West. Yet, we have watched China pursue hegemonic dominance in the Indo-Pacific, using this regional security to project power globally in a manner which threatens American economic, political, and national security. But all we get from the Biden Administration is strategy documents and diplomatic action which is far too late as Beijing eyes 2049 and the end of its 100 year marathon.

Madam Speaker, I recount this series of concerning events not to advocate for U.S. intervention. I highlight these developments to show how the Biden Administration has been completely unable or unwilling to use the wide range of America's tools of statecraft to address a real security threat, growing Chinese power and influence. Instead it is off pursuing highly political and abstract foreign policy goals which do much less for the security of the American people, homeland, and way of life. The ease at which the CCP has obtained complete influence over another nation in a strategically important region of the world highlights its growing power and how this Congress and Administration needs to get serious about its foreign policy responsibilities.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM'S VIETNAM WAR VETERANS COMMEMORATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum's Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration, honoring all the men and women who served our Nation during the Vietnam War.

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum is a nonprofit organization that assists the museum in telling the story of America's military. For fifty years, this organization has held commemoration ceremonies to honor the Vietnam War veterans who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. They graciously award lapel pins that celebrate the brave sacrifices of the servicemen and women who spent time on active duty in both training and combat. For far too long, our Vietnam veterans have gone unheralded for

their immense bravery during this crucial time in our nation's history. They returned home injured and scarred by the horrors of war yet did not receive the gratitude of their fellow citizens.

The New York State Military Museum began their mission to preserve and interpret history in 1863. With the help of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, they have been able to tell countless stories of our brave men and women in uniform. Acting as docents, retail associates, and research library volunteers, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum finds numerous ways to support museum operations daily. The museum holds over ten thousand artifacts and boasts impressive research and education programs. With their assistance, this museum has been able to effectively honor all those that sacrificed their lives to protect democracy both at home and abroad.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Friends of the New York State Military Museum on their fifty years of loyal service to our veterans of the Vietnam War. And I want to thank the many North Country residents that selflessly dedicated their lives to our Nation's armed services.

IN RECOGNITION OF JORDAN WILSON'S SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jordan Wilson and his service to my office, Virginia's First District, and the Nation.

Jordan joined my office in September 2016 and has diligently worked his way up from an intern to Director of Operations, striving for excellence in every task along the way. As Staff Assistant, Jordan improved our constituent services program; as Legislative Correspondent, he reformed our letter writing process; and finally, as Director of Operations, he developed processes to streamline my office's operations and worked to pursue my priorities coordinating and creating a schedule to maximize my time.

Jordan has gone above and beyond to contribute to additional duties outside of my office as well. He has taught over 330 Hill staff through the Congressional Staff Academy's Superior Scheduling training and has become a singular hub for questions, concerns, and assistance for schedulers across the House and Senate. Further, Jordan served on the Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in 2020–2021, where he served a crucial role in setting up COVID testing operations to ensure our Nation's leaders were safe, ultimately contributing to the success of Inauguration Day.

I would like to thank Jordan for his contributions over the last 6.5 years. He has been a key member of my staff in every role he has taken up and contributed to the positive office culture that my office strives for. I wish Jordan the best as he continues his journey in public service as the Director of Member Services for the Committee on House Administration.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Jordan Wilson for his dedication to

Virginia's First District. May God bless Jordan as he continues his career in public service.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 4

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Arianna J. Freeman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Robert Steven Huie, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Evelyn Padin, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Jennifer H. Rearden, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Vanessa Roberts Avery, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, Department of Justice.

SH-216

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2023 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine insider trading legislation, focusing on fair markets.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the effect of elevated petroleum prices on American commerce and consumers.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, focusing on stakeholders' needs and experiences.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2023 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine FDA user fee agreements, focusing on advancing medical product regulation and innovation for the benefit of patients.

SD-430

11 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine corporate profits and rising prices.

SD-608

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold closed hearings to examine training the next generation of cyber operators.

SVC-217

APRIL 6

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimate and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine suicide prevention and related behavioral health interventions in the Department of Defense.

SR-222

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years, and Paul M. Rosen, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Investment Security, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2023 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

11:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Derek Kan, of California, and Daniel Mark Tangherlini, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine amendments to the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government

of the United States of America (Treaty Doc.115-03), agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Croatia comprising the instrument as contemplated by Article 3(2) of the Agreement on Extradition between the United States of America and the European Union, signed June 25, 2003, as to the Application of the Treaty on Extradition signed on October 25, 1901 (the "U.S.-Croatia Extradition Agreement"), and the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Croatia comprising the Instrument as contemplated by Article 3(3) of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance between the United States of America and the European Union signed at Washington on June 25, 2003 (the "U.S.-Croatia Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement"), both signed at Washington on December 10, 2019 (Treaty Doc.116-02), and amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment") (Treaty Doc.117-01).

SD-106/VTC

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense's posture for supporting and fostering innovation.

SR-222

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine advancing public transportation in small cities and rural places under the bipartisan infrastructure law.

SD-538/VTC

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Beth Pritchard Geer, Robert P. Klein, both of Tennessee, and L. Michelle Moore, of Georgia, all to be a Member of the Board of Directors, and Benny R. Wagner, of Tennessee, to be Inspector General, all of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

SD-406

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine ways to counter tactics oligarchs use to launder their money and reputations and stifle dissent.

SD-562

3:15 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dara Lindenbaum, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

APRIL 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the scope and scale of critical mineral demand and recycling of critical minerals.

SD-366