

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#1)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

Beyond the Armenian Genocide, there are other cases in which foreign leaders dispute the use of the term genocide to describe atrocities which clearly merit its application. For example, the President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran has routinely denied the Holocaust and objects to the way in which the Nazis' efforts to murder of millions of European Jews are portrayed in the West. Do you believe that the United States should refrain from using the term genocide to describe events that constitute genocide if doing so might offend other nations?

Answer:

No. While it is difficult to make abstract and hypothetical judgments on such matters, I do not believe that the United States should refrain from making clear its views simply because the expression of these views might be difficult for another country.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#2)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

In a letter dated February 19, 2000, then a candidate for President, Governor George W. Bush recognized the “genocidal campaign” conducted by the Ottoman Empire against ethnic Armenians. Do you believe that President Bush was wrong to use this terminology when describing the atrocities in question?

Answer:

I recognize, as President Bush does, the forced exile and mass killings of as many as 1.5 million Armenians during the final years of the Ottoman Empire. This tragedy was an event of historic proportion. If confirmed, I will represent the U.S. Government’s position on this issue and I will work vigorously to support reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#3)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

If the United States Ambassador to Israel refused to recognize the Holocaust as genocide, how do you believe this might affect the United States' relationship with Israel?

Answer:

I appreciate the parallels being presented between the Holocaust and the tragedies of the Armenian people in 1915. These are, however, two very different circumstances and it would not be proper to draw a comparison.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#4)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

Do you believe it is important for the United States to speak out forcefully and condemn genocide when it occurs? Why or why not?

Answer:

Yes. The President's National Security Strategy affirms that the world must take action to prevent and halt mass atrocities and killings regardless of whether the term "genocide" is used to describe them. As the strategy states, "we must not allow the legal debate over the technical definition of 'genocide' to excuse inaction."

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#5)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

If it is in fact the policy of the United States not to characterize the systematic killing of 1.5 million Armenians as genocide, please explain why these events do not meet any of the five definitions in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide?

Answer:

It is the policy of the United States to recognize these tragic events, and the policy of the United States to promote reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey.

In his annual commemoration of this tragedy on Armenian Remembrance Day, President Bush acknowledges these terrible events and calls for a productive dialogue that will encourage reconciliation and promote peace and stability in the region. If confirmed, I also intend to pursue this important objective.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#6)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

To the best of your knowledge, why is Ambassador John Evans being replaced before the expiration of his customary three-year ambassadorial term?

Answer:

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on internal personnel issues about a peer. Such decisions are beyond my purview. All U.S. Ambassadors serve at the pleasure of the President, as I have done and will do, if confirmed. I fully accept there is no definitive set “term” for any Ambassador.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Joseph Biden (#7)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

Approximately how much does it cost American taxpayers to vet, confirm, and install a new United States ambassador?

Answer:

The appointment process calls upon the time of staff from various bureaus within the State Department beginning with the clearance process, through briefings and consultations, and ultimately, if confirmed, the swearing-in process. There may also be travel expenses, salary or the time of the Senate or other USG agencies involved. The costs and resources expended to shepherd a candidate through the Ambassadorial appointment and confirmation process vary widely from appointment to appointment; the exact costs are difficult to estimate.

