

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15-52

RE: C.R. NO. 15-59/EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. SAMSON PRETRICK TO
SERVE AS AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI.

NOVEMBER 21, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 15-59, entitled:

"CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MR. SAMSON PRETRICK TO
SERVE AS AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee on External Affairs to which was submitted
the matter of the nomination of Samson E. Pretrick as
Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Fiji
(and the South Pacific) in Suva, begs leave to report as
follows:

The ambassadorship in Fiji has recently become vacant due to
the resignation of longtime ambassador Kodaro Gallen, Your
committee welcomes the President's initiative in submitting
a nomination for this important post, insofar as the embassy
in Fiji also serves as the representation of the FSM to the
entire South Pacific, including multilateral organizations
such as the Pacific Forum in Fiji, SPC in Noumea, and SPREP
in Samoa.

The committee is not unfamiliar with the nominee. He is the
long-serving Consul-General of the FSM in Guam, and has
served in that post with distinction.

Your committee held a confirmation hearing with the nominee
on November 17, 2007. Present were Chairman Welly, Vice-
Chairman Aritos, Speaker Figir, Vice Speaker Moses, Floor
Leader Suka, Senator Neth, Senator Urusemal, Senator
Phillip, Senator Sitan, Senator Nelson, and Senator Paul.
Witnesses included the nominee, the Secretary of Foreign

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Affairs Lorin Robert and the Director of SBOC, Mr. Fabian Nimea.

The nominee has impeccable foreign affairs credentials. He began his career with the FSM government in the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1989 as a Foreign Service Officer. He served at the Washington DC Embassy as a First Secretary for Political and Economic Affairs before relocating to Guam. He attended numerous foreign affairs training programs.

The nominee has good academic credentials, holding a Master's degree from Monish University in Australia (in collaboration with the Australian National University). His BA in Business Administration and Economics was from Tarkio College in Missouri.

Asked how he was approached for this position, the nominee testified that he was contacted by the Vice-President at the time of the recent Business Opportunities in the Islands conference this past October on Guam. He stated that his only concern about the Fiji position was possible safety issues, for which he was assured by the administration that there should not be any concerns.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs testified that he was consulted by the President on this nomination, and strongly endorses the nomination.

Your committee is satisfied with the explanation and testimony of the witnesses. It feels that the nominee's background, intelligence and skill will enhance the nation's foreign policy in the South Pacific. As a matter of fact your committee's only reservation is whether the nominee's departure from Guam may not jeopardize the FSM's ability to take advantage of the upcoming economic surge in Guam associated with the military redeployment there.

Your committee supports the confirmation of Samson. E, Pretrick as Ambassador of the FSM in Fiji 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. 15-59 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/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

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

Dion G. Neth, member

Resio S. Moses, member

/s/ Setiro Paul
Setiro Paul, member