

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-32

RE: C.R. NO. 19-45/EX AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. LORIN
S. ROBERT TO SERVE AS THE OF SECRETARY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

AUGUST 16, 2015

The Honorable Wesley Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred
C.R. No. 19-45, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR.
LORIN S. ROBERT TO SERVE AS THE SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATED
STATES OF MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

Then intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed
in its title.

On July 8, 2015, the President transmitted Congressional
Resolution No. 19-45 to Congress through Presidential
Communication No. 19-70. The said communication was
transmitted during the First Special Session of Congress,
which contained the resume of the nominee.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on the nomination
on August 15, 2015. During the hearing and deliberations
regarding the nominee's confirmation, your Committee on

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External Affairs reviewed the qualifications of this nominee extensively.

The nominee has served for several years in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Most recently the nominee has served as the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. He has the knowledge and experience regarding our Nation's foreign and domestic policies, and current international issues that are essential to represent the Federated States of Micronesia.

Your Committee learned that the President and Vice President had approached the nominee and asked him to choose whether he wanted to be nominated as Ambassador to U.N. Mission in New York, Washington D.C. or Beijing China. instead his nomination was transmitted to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

At the hearing, your Committee discussed the One-China Policy. The nominee explained that the FSM is the only country in the North Pacific that has diplomatic ties with the Government of the People's Republic of China. He further stated that if the President proposed an official trip to Taiwan, he will advise the President not to take the trip.

The issue with having Deputy Chiefs of Mission and Consul Generals confirmed by Congress was also discussed. The nominee stated that for continuity purpose, the current law is very disruptive to the operation of the Department. In fact, it was discussed that the current arrangement may have effect on the loyalty between the DCM and the Ambassador in each of the respective overseas missions.

The witnesses strongly support the nominee and claimed that the credibility of the nominee is beyond reproach. Your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so

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recommends Lorin S. Robert be confirmed as the Secretary of
the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment,
to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 18, delete "First" and insert "Second", in
lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the
intent and purpose of C.R. No.19-45, and recommends its
adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-45,
C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

Robson Romolow, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, member

/s/ Victor V. Gouland
Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

Bonsiano F. Nethon, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo
David W. Panuelo, member