

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

Question:

Why was Ambassador Evans removed as Ambassador to Armenia?

Answer:

All U.S. Ambassadors serve at the pleasure of the President. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on internal personnel issues.

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

Question:

Was Ambassador Evans removed because of his mention of the Armenian genocide?

Answer:

All U.S. Ambassadors serve at the pleasure of the President. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on internal personnel issues.

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

Question:

Have you met with Ambassador Evans to discuss transition and continuity issues?

Answer:

No. It would be inappropriate for me to do so until confirmed; however, I have known Ambassador Evans as a friend and colleague for many years. If confirmed, I will consult closely with him to assure a smooth transition.

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

Question:

What is the Administration's policy towards acknowledging the Armenian genocide and what boundaries have been set for your position as Ambassador to address or speak about Armenian genocide?

Answer:

U.S. policy concerning the tragic events of 1915 was clearly enunciated by the President on April 24, Armenian Remembrance Day. If confirmed, it will be my responsibility to represent the President's policy. This policy acknowledges the tragedy that resulted in the mass killings and forced exile of as many as 1.5 million Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire as one that we and the world must never forget. We mourn this terrible chapter of history and recognize that it remains a source of pain for people in Armenia and for all those who believe in freedom, tolerance, and the dignity and value of every human life.

It is a credit to the human spirit and generations of Armenians who live in Armenia, the United States, and around the globe that they have overcome this suffering and proudly preserved their centuries-old culture, traditions, and religion.

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

Question:

Do you anticipate that the departure of your predecessor, Mr. Evans, will harm U.S.-Armenian relations? How do you plan to respond to those in the Armenian community who are upset about his departure?

Answer:

The United States has a deep and robust bilateral relationship with the Republic of Armenia. This relationship is based on close ties and mutual interests on a variety of issues. We expect this relationship to continue and to deepen.

If confirmed, I will work closely with the Government of Armenia, the Armenian people, and Armenian-Americans to promote a prosperous and democratic future for the Republic of Armenia.