



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

AND THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



***PRESENTATION OF
UNA-USA CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD
TO
SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR***

Good afternoon and welcome, ladies and gentlemen. We are assembled here today to recognize one of this country's most respected proponents of multilateral diplomacy and international law. During the course of his 33 years in the United States Senate, including two stints as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Richard Lugar has been a consistent and principled supporter of United States engagement with the United Nations.

Perhaps what has most distinguished Senator Lugar from many of his peers is his recognition that America's security and prosperity are intricately connected to events beyond our shores, and that there is no substitute for international cooperation.

Senator Lugar is perhaps best known, and rightly so, for his work on arms control and nonproliferation, specifically the Nunn-Lugar Program. In 1991, he joined with former Senator Sam Nunn to introduce what became known as the Nunn-Lugar Act. The legislation established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program that has provided U.S. funding and expertise to protect and dismantle weapons of mass destruction stockpiles and their delivery systems in former Soviet states.

As a result of the cooperative efforts under the program, and Senator Lugar's personal diplomacy, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus -- three of the world's eight largest nuclear weapons powers -- agreed to liquidate their nuclear arsenals and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states.

In 2004, the Nunn-Lugar Program was extended beyond the former Soviet Union. To date, it has deactivated more than 7,500 strategic nuclear warheads, destroyed nearly 800 intercontinental ballistic missiles, eliminated over 650 submarine launched ballistic missiles, destroyed nearly 200 bombers and nuclear submarines, and eliminated over 900 air-to-surface nuclear missiles. As if that wasn't enough, the program also upgraded security at two dozen nuclear weapons storage sites and built 20 biological monitoring stations.

Even for someone who is the most senior Republican in the U.S. Senate and the longest serving U.S. Senator in Indiana history, Dick Lugar's list of accomplishments is striking and extends far beyond Nunn-Lugar.

For years, the Senator has been a leading advocate for global food security and global energy security, two issues that recently have received prominent public attention.

In the wake of the 2007-2008 spike in global food prices, Senator Lugar teamed with Senator Bob Casey to introduce the bipartisan Global Food Security Act to reorganize and expand U.S. foreign agriculture and emergency food assistance to help the more than 1 billion people who live with chronic hunger.

For decades, Senator Lugar has dedicated himself to raising awareness about foreign energy dependence as a national security issue. He has called energy “the albatross of U.S. national security” and called for energy concerns to be integrated among top U.S. diplomatic and foreign assistance priorities.

Senator Lugar also has been a resolute champion of less popular issues, even if that has meant standing nearly alone in support of them. Such was the case during the UN arrears crisis in the late 1990s, when he criticized the numerous conditions placed on the payment of UN arrears in the Helms-Biden legislation. As an alternative, he introduced an amendment to pay the more than \$1 billion in US debt to the United Nations with no conditions attached.

At the time, Senator Lugar told his colleagues, “It is time to decide if we want a strong and viable United Nations that can serve the United States’ interests or a United Nations that is crippled by insolvency and hobbled by controversy and uncertainty.”

Overall, Senator Lugar has been a steady supporter of U.S. financial obligations to the United Nations and has introduced amendments and legislation on multiple occasions to ensure that the United States pays its UN dues.

On the day the Bush administration voted against the creation of the UN Human Rights Council in 2006, Senator Lugar issued a press release calling for the United States to seek election to the Council, insisting that the U.S. remain engaged given our history of supporting human rights.

United States’ ratification of international treaties is another less-than-popular issue on which Senator Lugar has been a leading voice in the Senate. In 2004, as Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, he secured a 19-0 vote in support of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, when the treaty failed to receive a vote in the full Senate despite unprecedented support from government, military, business, and civil society groups, Senator Lugar called it a bad sign for U.S. foreign policy.

He said, and I quote, “If we cannot get beyond political paralysis in a case where the coalition of American supporters is so comprehensive, there is little reason to think that any multilateral solution to any international problem is likely to be accepted within the U.S. policymaking structure.”

Senator Lugar has continued to draw attention to what he has referred to as the estrangement of the United States from multilateral treaty regimes. Just last year, he called on the Senate to reinvigorate its commitment to the treaty process. In doing so, he lamented that the Senate had

not held a significant debate on a treaty since the late 1990s and that treaties are often held up by a small number of Senators, in some cases by a single Senator. This situation has costs, he warned, because it deprives the United States of useful mechanisms to enlist and coordinate international cooperation.

In addition to his specific policy and legislative accomplishments, an important hallmark of Senator Lugar's longtime leadership role in Congress, for which we recognize him today, is his determined cultivation of bipartisanship. From the Nunn-Lugar Act to ongoing efforts to win advice and consent to ratification of the new START treaty, Senator Lugar has pursued the belief that strong and enduring public policy is built upon the hard work of securing broad across-the-aisle support.

For his dedicated efforts to build bipartisan support on behalf of the principles of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations Association of the USA presents the 2010 Congressional Leadership Award to Senator Richard Lugar.