

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: Chile

CANDIDATE: Michael A. Hammer

Michael Hammer, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, brings broad policy formulation and implementation skills necessary to lead an interagency team. He manages large staffs and promotes innovation to effectively engage new and diverse audiences. He develops wide-ranging contacts and has excelled at operating in diverse policy environments, whether leading teams abroad or navigating Washington's inner sanctum.

Mr. Hammer has served as Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Public Affairs since January 2011. Previously, he served as Senior Director for Press and Communications, and Spokesman for the National Security Council (NSC) at the White House (2009-2011), Political and Economic Counselor in La Paz, Bolivia (2007-2009), Political and Economic Counselor in Oslo, Norway (2003-2006), Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (2001-2003), Director for Andean Affairs at the NSC (2000-2001), Deputy Spokesman, NSC (1999-2000), Political Officer and Consul in Reykjavik, Iceland (1995-1999), and Iceland Desk Officer in Washington (1994-1995). He also served at the U.S. mission in Denmark and in Washington as Desk Officer for Croatia and for Spain/Portugal, and Watch Officer in the Operations Center.

Mr. Hammer earned a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy at the National Defense University, a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a Bachelor of Science degree in international relations from Georgetown University. He is fluent in Spanish and speaks Danish and French. He has a working knowledge of Icelandic. He is the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy and has received three individual Superior Honor Awards, one individual Meritorious Honor Award, and three Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer