

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: Republic of Indonesia

CANDIDATE: Robert Orris Blake, Jr.

Robert Blake brings extensive leadership experience to this assignment. A current Assistant Secretary, he has also served as Chief of Mission, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Deputy Executive Secretary. He currently plays a principal role in advancing U.S. relations with India, and has intensified U.S. engagement in Central Asia. He is known for close and productive interagency relations. In a recent Office of the Inspector General inspection, he earned the highest marks for his leadership and management of the South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau.

Mr. Blake currently serves as Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs. Previously, he served as Ambassador to Sri Lanka (2006-2009), Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi, India (one of the largest U.S. missions in the world) (2003-2006), Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (2001-2003), Deputy Executive Secretary, Executive Secretariat in Washington (2000-2001), Turkey Desk Officer in the Bureau of European Affairs (1998-2000), and Political Section Chief in Tunis, Tunisia (1995-1998). Additionally, he served at U.S. missions in Algeria, Egypt, and Nigeria. Prior to his Foreign Service career, Mr. Blake worked as an intern on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for Senator Claiborne Pell.

Mr. Blake earned a Master of Arts degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Harvard University. He speaks French and Arabic and has a working knowledge of Spanish. He is the recipient of the Department's Distinguished Service Award, four individual Superior Honor Awards, two individual Meritorious Honor Awards and 11 Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards. In 2009, he received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award. In 2005, he was awarded the Baker-Wilkins Award as best Deputy Chief of Mission.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer