

Michael Vance

Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence & Research)

Confirmation Hearing Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Chairman Cotton, Vice Chairman Warner, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to be considered for the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research.

I have too many people to thank to give everyone the credit they deserve for getting me to this point, but I do want to express my gratitude to the President for his confidence, and to the Secretary of State for the trust he has placed in me.

I would also like to thank my wife, Alessandra, for her patience and loving support over the course of my career. She is with me here today, along with my oldest son Wyatt. I also want to thank my parents for the example they have set for me in life. My mother, a retired Dickenson County, Virginia school teacher, taught me the value of an education. My father, a former coal miner turned small business owner, taught me about hard work and dedication to family. I know they are watching today from home with my three youngest children, Morgan, Ellis, and Mabel. Finally, I would like to thank the many colleagues from across the Intelligence Community, the State Department, and the White House who have offered encouragement throughout the nomination process.

If confirmed, it would be a tremendous privilege to lead the Bureau of Intelligence and Research – an organization with a proud tradition of analytic rigor, independence, and service to U.S. foreign policy. INR plays a unique and indispensable role within the Intelligence Community. Its officers provide objective, policy-relevant all-source intelligence analysis and support rooted in deep expertise and an understanding of diplomacy, ensuring that policymakers receive assessments that are candid, timely, and free from political influence.

At a time of increasing global competition, persistent conflict, and rapidly evolving technological challenges, the demand for high-quality intelligence has never been greater. If confirmed, my foremost priority would be to safeguard the integrity and

independence of INR's analysis, while ensuring it continues to meet the needs of the Secretary, the Department, and Congress.

I also recognize the critical importance of partnership – within the Department, in the Intelligence Community, and with our friends and allies overseas. INR's value is magnified when it understands the Department and its needs, collaborates effectively across agencies, and integrates diplomatic insight with intelligence collection and analysis. If confirmed, I would work to strengthen those relationships.

Equally important is our responsibility to Congress. I am committed to transparency, timely engagement, and forthright communication. Robust oversight strengthens our intelligence institutions, and I would view my relationship with Congress as essential to the bureau's success.

Finally, I would be deeply mindful of our obligation to the dedicated public servants of INR. Their expertise, professionalism, and quiet dedication underpin the bureau's reputation for excellence. If confirmed, I would prioritize supporting and developing this workforce, ensuring they have the tools, leadership, and trust necessary to carry out their mission.

Thank you again for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions and to the opportunity to serve our country.