



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMACY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2025

Chairman

THOMAS A. SHANNON, JR.

Vice Chairman

ALONZO FULGHAM

President

RONALD E. NEUMANN

Treasurer

GREGORY STARR

Deputy Treasurer

JENONNE WALKER

Secretary

MOLLY WILLIAMSON

Program Director

MARIA REISSAUS

Board of Directors

CYNTHIA AKUETTEH

FRANK ALMAGUER

LILLIANA AYALDE

JOYCE BARR

ROBERT M. BEECROFT

MICHELE BOND

THOMAS BOYATT

ROBERT CEKUTA

GLYN DAVIES

KATHLEEN DOHERTY

JEFFREY FELTMAN

JAMES FOGGO

HAROLD GEISEL

ROBERT HUNTER

LAURA KENNEDY

PATRICK KENNEDY

DOUGLAS LUTE

DEBORAH MCCARTHY

GEORGE MOOSE

ANDREW NATSIOS

WANDA NESBITT

B. LYNN PASCOE

EUNICE REDDICK

CHARLES RIVKIN

MATTIE R. SHARPLESS

PAMELA SPRATLEN

HARRY THOMAS

MICHAEL VAN DUSEN

ALEXANDER WATSON

Former Chairmen

THOMAS R. PICKERING

JOSEPH J. SISCO

MAX M. KAMPELMAN

LAWRENCE S. EAGLEBURGER

FRANK C. CARLUCCI

SOL M. LINOWITZ

ELLIOT RICHARDSON

Ex-Officio

G. PHILIP HUGHES, Council of
American Ambassadors

JO ELLEN POWELL, Una Chapman
Cox Foundation

SUSAN JOHNSON, Association for
Diplomatic Studies & Training

Friends of the Academy

JOHNSTON-HANSON FOUNDATION

UNA CHAPMAN COX FOUNDATION

SISCO FAMILY FUND

GARDAWORLD

Program Contributors

THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

ARTHUR ROSS FOUNDATION

THE DILLON FUND

SISCO FAMILY FUND

Contact: Maria Reissaus

Tel: (202) 331-3721

E-mail: mreissaus@academyofdiplomacy.org

Academy Opposes an Unqualified Appointee

Washington, D.C. – The American Academy of Diplomacy strongly opposes the appointment of an unqualified junior officer to direct State Department personnel operations. The Foreign Service Act of 1980 (SEC. 208 of 22 U.S.C. 3928) states that:

“The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Director General of the Foreign Service, who shall be a current or former career member of the Foreign Service. The Director General should assist the Secretary of State in the management of the Service and perform such functions as the Secretary of State may prescribe.”

Every past Director General has been a senior officer of extensive experience having served at least once as an ambassador. With no disrespect to the individual in question, to appoint a junior officer with one overseas tour to carry out the functions of the Director General trivializes the position and its responsibilities. Avoiding Senate confirmation by establishing the officer as a “senior bureau official,” a position without legal sanction, makes a mockery of the law and generations of diplomats of the Foreign and Civil Service, who have served under difficult conditions and sometimes given their lives in the service of our nation.

END

###

Strengthening American Diplomacy

1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 902 • Washington, DC 20036 Tel 202/331-3721 • Fax 202/833-4555

www.academyofdiplomacy.org