includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations and commitments to transparency in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH


APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Mr. Peter Videnieks of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2010.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the pending recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the following days and times for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted: Monday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, November 26 at 10 a.m.; Saturday, November 29 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.; and that when the Senate recesses on Friday, it stand in recess until 3 p.m., Monday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the adjournment of unneeded business be at 6:03 p.m., to the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, over the next few weeks, Senators will be continuing to negotiate a bill to provide assistance to the auto industry. If an agreement is reached—for the information of the Members—the Senate will turn to action when the Senate returns on December 8. That is a message from the majority leader, Senator Reid.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:03 p.m., recessed until Monday, November 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named career member of the foreign service of the international broadcasting bureau was nominated to be senior foreign service to the classes indicated:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DAVID J. STRAWMAN, OF ILLINOIS

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer for appointment in the United States army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 674:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. ROGERS

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASHTON J. CHAUBRY AND ENDING WITH ALAN D. HARRIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

CONFERMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 20, 2008:

The following nominations were confirmed in the United States courts:

CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN
CAPTAIN WILLIAM D. LEE
CAPTAIN CHARLES D. MICHEL
CAPTAIN ROY A. NASH
CAPTAIN MICHAEL N. PARKS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
GENE ALLAN CRETT, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES
BARBARA ERNST FREY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FRANCISCO R. HINOJOSA, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2013.

WILLIAM B. CARR, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2011.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASIF J. CHAUDHRY AND ENDING WITH AALAN D. HRAPSKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.