

[Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Phone Call With Chinese Politburo Member Yang Jiechi](#)

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
May 5, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke by phone today with Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee Yang Jiechi. Secretary Pompeo and Politburo Member Yang affirmed the importance of a constructive, results-oriented bilateral relationship. The two sides also discussed global, regional, and bilateral issues of mutual concern. The two sides agreed on the need to address the threat that North Korea poses to regional stability. The Secretary and Politburo Member Yang also discussed preparations for senior-level U.S.-China engagements later this year.

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[Press Releases: Remarks at the American Foreign Service Association](#)

(AFSA) Memorial Plaque Ceremony

Remarks

Mike Pompeo

Secretary of State

C Street Lobby

Washington, DC

May 4, 2018

AMBASSADOR STEPHENSON: Good afternoon, and welcome. Please be seated, oh, if you can. I'm Barbara Stephenson, president of the American Foreign Service Association. Thank you for joining us here today as we gather to pay tribute to our colleagues who lost their lives while serving our country overseas. It has been over 80 years since these plaques were unveiled by then Secretary of State Henry Stimson. More recently, the Senate in 1996 passed a resolution calling for the first Friday of May to be recognized as American Foreign Service Day. That resolution had 54 cosponsors from both parties, showing broad bipartisan support for the idea of strong American global leadership, and for the Foreign Service.

I want to thank Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for being with us today. And also thank Under – yes. (Applause.) And we also want to thank Under Secretary of State Tom Shannon for being with us today. (Applause.) Their presence speaks volumes about the importance that we in this community place on remembering and honoring those among us who do not make it home. Last year, we had the good fortune of not having to add a name to the plaques. Sadly, that is not the case this year. Andy Jordan and Selena Nelson-Salcedo were valued members of our community, doing the work they loved on behalf of our country. This year, we honor them by adding their names to AFSA's memorial plaques. Andy and Selena's families, friends and colleagues are here today in large numbers. Thank you all for being with us today.

We in the Foreign Service pledge to do our best to manage the risks that are inherent in our mission. We also confirm by our presence today that members of the Foreign Service who die while serving our country abroad will be remembered and honored for their service and sacrifice. The presence of so many distinguished colleagues and guests demonstrates that commitment.

I want to welcome, in particular, USAID Administrator Mark Green; Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Ken Isley; APHIS Associate Administrator Dr. Michael Watson; Broadcasting Board of Governors Chief of Staff Matt Walsh; USAID Counselor Tom Staal; Under Secretary Andrea Thompson; Assistant Secretaries of State Dan Smith, Manisha Singh and Carl Risch; Deputy Under Secretary for Management Bill Todd; Acting Assistant Secretaries Francisco Palmieri, Don Yamamoto, Judith Garber, Susan Thornton, James Walsh, Alice Wells, and Mike Kozak; deputy chief of mission at the embassy of the Slovak Republic Jozef Polakovic; Adam Sterling, U.S. ambassador to the Slovak Republic; other members of the department's leadership, Doctor Mark Cohen, Will Moser, Karen Mummaw, Molly Phee, Anita Friedt, and Christian Sherman, and Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

As you know, more than two thirds of the Foreign Service is stationed abroad at any given moment. For the second year, we have invited those colleagues to join our commemoration today, by participating in moments of silence at posts around the world at noon local time. Members of the Foreign Service joined us in observing a moment of silence in honor of our fallen colleagues in embassies and consulates in Abu Dhabi, Accra, Amman, Ankara, Athens, Baghdad, Bratislava, Cairo, Canberra, Caracas, Conakry, Dakar, Dili, Doha, Dublin, Geneva, Georgetown, The Hague, Harare, Kabul, Kolkata, Kuala Lumpur, Lima, Lisbon, Ljubljana, N'Djamena, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Panama City, Port of Spain, Praia, Rangoon, Reykjavik, Singapore, Tbilisi, Vilnius, Warsaw, and many others.

This moment of silence that we observe each year is never easy. Our losses are real and we feel them deeply. The pride we feel in our mission is also real. We know that for America to lead, we must be present. I'm confident that those we honor today would want us to remain steadfast, be present, and keep the American flag flying at posts around the world. Before we offer our own moment of silence, I would like to ask everyone to please stand as the United States Armed Forces Color Guard present the colors.

(The Colors were presented.)

I ask that you remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of our fallen colleagues, and then for the National Anthem. Fellow Foreign Service officer Katie Nutt will bring us out of the moment of silence by singing the Star Spangled Banner. Katie asks that we all join her in singing the final phrase, on the back of your programs, beginning, "Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave."

Now please join me and our colleagues at embassies and consulates around the globe in observing a Moment of Silence in honor of our fallen colleagues.

(A Moment of Silence was observed.)

(The National Anthem was sung.)

AMBASSADOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Katie. Please, be seated. Our anthem asks, "Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave?" The answer to that question is and must remain, "Yes." The answer to that question – as the photos from the moments of silence held at embassies and consulates around the globe show, the Star-Spangled Banner continues to wave proudly – a visible demonstration of America's global leadership. I invite you to join me in committing to ensuring we can say the same thing next year and a decade from now and 20 years from now.

I would now like to invite our Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to the podium. (Applause.)

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you so much, Ambassador Stephenson, for hosting this important service. I am grateful to see so many leaders here, as the ambassador mentioned, from throughout the department and indeed leaders throughout our government.

Thank you for joining us as we pay tribute to our colleagues, our friends, our family members, who have died in service to our nation.

This wall to my rear stands as a reminder that sacrifice is part of our department's culture. It's part of our DNA. The 248 names behind me represent lives lived – not for their own glory or their own good – but for the good of others, for promoting peace and prosperity in selfless service to their fellow Americans.

I'm reminded of a verse from Scripture. The book of Philippians commands us: Let each of us – you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Those on this wall have done that in the ultimate form. They abandoned their own comfort and security for the sake of our countrymen. They paid the price for freedom we enjoy today. And we are all indebted to them.

Today we want to honor in particular the individuals whose names we are adding to this wall of heroes.

Michael Andrew Cameron Jordan, known to his friends and family as Andy. He served the American people all over the world, most recently in Juba, South Sudan.

The second name is Selena Nelson-Salcedo, who most recently served as consular chief at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Selena and Andy worked hard on behalf of all of us. They were patriotic and passionate about advancing the United States's interests abroad. They leave behind families, friends, and coworkers who will miss them greatly. But they also leave behind a great legacy of selfless service that will be a reminder to us all and to future generations forever. The names on this wall illustrate that we are living in uncertain, difficult times. Every morning, I'm grateful to be working with colleagues who are up to the challenge, willing to sacrifice so much, whether Foreign or Civil Service or locally employed staff, every day in support of our mission.

I promise I'm going to do everything I can to keep every single one of our team members safe. One of the things I did as the director of the CIA and will continue to do as Secretary is to visit posts abroad and see how our family members are living and working. I always stop and ask the question: Would I be comfortable placing my own family in this situation? That's the standard for evaluating how well we are doing for our people and how well we are doing in keeping them and their families safe. If the conditions aren't good enough for the Pompeo family, we will fix it. If the safety is inadequate, we will correct it. If there are shortcomings in security measures, we will get after them immediately. It's my job. The very first briefing I received after I was nominated was on the issue of security. I take this mission incredibly seriously.

So today, as we remember the fallen during this solemn occasion, we grieve for these heroes. We pray for their families and their friends and colleagues. But we must also keep our eyes fixed, knowing that a more stable and peaceful future is ahead because of the legacy they have helped us achieve. Every day, we get up with a goal in mind, remembering that the sacrifice we all make makes freedom possible, and we channel their dedication and their commitment to propel us forward. Thank you all. (Applause.)

AMBASSADOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I know I speak for all of us when I say how much we appreciate that you are with us today. I'd now like to ask Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Tom Shannon to come to the podium.

UNDER SECRETARY SHANNON: Thank you, Barbara. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I'm deeply honored to be here on this most meaningful of occasions. These plaques and those across our lobby chart the measure of devotion and sacrifice of American Foreign Service officers and civil servants across nearly 240 years. They hold the names and memories, as the Secretary noted, of 248 heroic Americans, but after today it will be 250, who have died while in the service of our great republic. Of these, 112 have been added since the day I raised my hand and swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States in 1984. Each of these names, from William Palfrey, the very first in 1780, to those we will add today, has a compelling story. Each had a family and friends and colleagues who mourn their death.

This year, we mourn and honor two more members of our Foreign Service family.

I want to share with you the stories of Michael Andrew Cameron Jordan and Selena Nelson-Salcedo, two outstanding examples of the very best of the Foreign Service. Michael Andrew Cameron Jordan, known to his family and friends as Andy, served as the information management officer at U.S. Mission in Juba, South Sudan. He died unexpectedly on December 18th, 2016. Andy joined the Foreign Service in 2003 and served with distinction in Baghdad, Brussels, Karachi, Tel Aviv, Lusaka, Tbilisi, and Nairobi.

Andy's humble nature meant he never boasted of his contributions or their impact, but they were significant. While in South Sudan, a country with an eroding infrastructure and a deteriorating security situation, Andy, through his ingenuity and talent, maintained an IT platform that enabled the embassy team to carry out its mission of feeding 2 million people per month and providing water and sanitation to 2,500 – 250,000 people living in UN camps, and much more. Andy would take no credit for himself for these accomplishments; rather, he would shower praise on his team. He was especially supportive of and beloved by the embassy's Foreign Service Nationals. He exhibited these traits of professional excellence and personal generosity in all of his assignments.

Andy's pride and joy was his family – his wife, Deb, and his two beautiful daughters, Madi and Helena. They are all here today. Andy loved his family dearly. He often wore t-shirts from Helena's regattas and would decorate his workspace with Madi's art. To Deb, to Madi, to Helena, you do us great honor through your presence here today, and you do us a great kindness by allowing us to share with you our grief at the loss of Andy. Our words can provide little comfort, but we hope our solidarity and respect can ease the ache and provide some solace.

Today we also honor Selena Nelson-Salcedo. Selena was the consular chief at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava when she passed away on June 4th, 2017. Selena joined the department as a Foreign Service officer in 2008, after a brilliant academic career in her native Midwest. She earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and a master's degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. During her time in the State Department, she served in the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, and Slovakia. She spoke five languages fluently. She was passionate about civil rights and social justice, and spent much of her career working to improve the lives of the poor and disenfranchised around the world. She was a great soul.

Selena is survived by her husband Jorge, who is a valued member of our department. She also leaves her wonderful daughters Gaia, who will turn four years old tomorrow, and Antonella. Jorge, Gaia, and Antonella are joined here today by over a dozen members of their extended family. Thank you for being with us today. Your courage and your generosity of spirit has provided us with great comfort. The thoughts and gratitude of every member of the Foreign Service family are with you today.

The Greek poet and dramatist Aeschylus wrote, "In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." That pain has

etched the names of Andy and Selena into our hearts. It has also etched their names into stone, where they will serve both as an inspiration and an example of lives lived courageously in the service of the American people.

Mr. Secretary, Madam Ambassador, could you please unveil the names.

(The names were unveiled.)

Michael Andrew Cameron Jordan, Selena Nelson-Salcedo, we salute you. May God bless you. Yes, call forth the wreath, please.

AMBASSADOR STEPHENSON: Thank you, Tom, for being here, and thank you for your exemplary service to our nation. Will you all please stand as the United States Armed Forces Color Guard retires the colors.

(The Colors were retired.)

AMBASSADOR STEPHENSON: I would like to conclude today's ceremony by thanking you all for being here today and for honoring our colleagues and the Foreign Service community. Thank you all.

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[Press Releases: Remarks at the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Day](#)

Remarks
Mike Pompeo

Secretary of State

Dean Acheson Auditorium
Washington, DC
May 4, 2018

UNDER SECRETARY SHANNON: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome and good afternoon. It's a tremendous pleasure to see you all again. You've had a busy day, and I hope your discussions have been fruitful and have allowed you to engage on the many challenges and opportunities that face American diplomacy. Now you have an opportunity to meet and hear from our new Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo.

Secretary Pompeo is a great public servant, having served as an Army officer, a member of the House of Representatives, and until recently as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He is a man of deep intellect, broad understanding of global issues, and strong character. He wasted no time getting started as Secretary of State, traveling directly from his confirmation and swearing-in to Brussels for the NATO ministerial, and then on to Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Jordan. He has returned in time for Foreign Affairs Day. (Laughter and applause.) And to meet with all of you.

So ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the 70th Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo. (Applause.)

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Thank you all very much. While I was standing there, I did the math. I count about 12,000 years of experience in the room. (Laughter.)

And I must say, it's an honor to be with you here today. It's the 53rd Foreign Affairs Day. I know I speak for everyone in the building when I say that we're grateful for your service to the country and the many sacrifices you and your families have made along the way.

President Eisenhower – I tend to use Kansas quotes – he’s a Kansan I greatly admire – he once remarked that when State Department colleagues get together, it felt more like a “family gathering” than anything else. I have already found that description fits. I was given an incredibly warm welcome on my first day. The team has been great. My wife joked that she hoped that I wasn’t peaking that day. (Laughter.) Always that risk. And it’s still the case. As I was walking down the hall, I realized I still need help to find my way around the building.

I want to thank a few people for making today possible. Our generous co-sponsors, the American Foreign Service Association, DACOR, and the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service. Thank you for making this possible, and for your constant support of our team. (Applause.)

I also want to thank – congratulate, rather, some very special people. I want to congratulate the award recipients: DACOR’s Foreign Service Cup winner Ambassador Henry Allen Holmes. (Applause.) Thank you, Ambassador, for serving our community both in and out of government, and to dedicating your life to equipping the next generation of our team’s leaders. We are also proud today to recognize the winners of the Director General’s Civil Service Cup and Foreign Service Cup – Richard Greene and Ambassador Kristie Kenney. (Applause.)

You have all had a long day, but this day does offer a real opportunity, an opportunity to review – to consider our successes from the past in a building of strong – and in how we’ve built a strong, diverse corps of the best foreign affairs professionals in the world. But it also provides an opportunity to consider the future, and in my first week on the job it’s mostly future, not past. There are many challenges we face today; you all know that. And while I’m new to this, and it is my first week, I want to talk to you about where I believe we’re going, and my commitment to you and our Foreign and Civil Service team.

But for starters, the good news is while I have not been here long, I already know the mettle, patriotism, and the nature and character and the dedication of you and your colleagues. I remember trips I took as a member of Congress where I watched Foreign Service officers putting their lives on hold at all hours of the day and night, working weekends to help us get the most out of our visit. And I know they were working when we were gone, as well.

One thing I learned right away is that the department’s heroes regularly toil outside of the limelight, in tough environments all over the world. So well before I raised my right hand and took the Oath of Office, the State Department had already served me incredibly well. And it is indeed an enormous honor to now be part of this group.

These times are turbulent. The demands are for strong leadership. It is essential that our team does that and counters the threats that we face with courage and strength. I know that you all did that; I know that our team will do that in the days ahead.

Fortunately, we have a President who believes in muscular diplomacy as well,

one that makes full use of the instruments of national power to advance, first and foremost, vital American interests and values.

Effective, forward-thinking diplomacy increases our chances of solving problems peacefully, without ever firing a shot.

Our foreign policy, too, it's got to be pragmatic while still remaining principled – and agile enough to respond to changing circumstances yet anchored in the fundamental ideals and values that ground – ground our nation's history. I saw our country's strength and commitment to those ideals as a young cavalry officer. Tom referred to my time in the military. I led troops that patrolled the boundary between freedom and communism along the East German – then-East German and Czechoslovakian border. Today the world strength – the world needs that strength and those ideals ever more.

We have to continue this centuries-old mission of defending freedom, liberty, and human dignity around the world, while first keeping our country and people safe.

At that time, I recall we were prepared for conflict along the Iron Curtain, but it was diplomacy executed over months and years and, indeed, decades that saved me and my tank platoon from ever having to engage.

This is every corner of the world today. Men and women of the State Department and USAID out there serving America's interests. It's essential to deal with the many challenges. My mission is to help every member of our team achieve that goal.

Today there are several places – you've heard about some of them – there's enormous diplomatic effort to continue to keep the pressure on North Korea and bring them to the negotiating table, to a place where we can successfully eliminate the threat from Kim Jong-un's nuclear arsenal.

We see it, too, with our allies in Europe. I spent my first few days there – indeed, my first hours. We're blessed to have so many allies with strong relationships. There are, of course, rough times and places that we disagree. But these countries share our values and our interests, and we all have a common effort in ensuring prosperity for our nations moving forward.

I traveled from there to the Middle East. We need strong diplomatic efforts there as well to prevent Iran's destabilizing behavior in Syria, in Yemen, and across the region. We have to tackle the threat from jihadist terror and from places with really weak governance. These are all great challenges, but I'm confident that our team can develop strategies and diplomatic footprints capable of resolving them.

We often don't talk so much about Latin America, but as we witness the destruction of a once prosperous and democratic nation in our near-abroad, we need to tackle that diplomatically as well. A dictator today in Venezuela cripples his economy and starves his people. We need a strong State Department and USAID to help the millions of Venezuelans fleeing the corrupt regime as a result of this entirely man-made crisis.

And finally, we need our diplomats and foreign affairs professionals working all over the world to promote the dignity of every single human being to live freely and achieve their full potential.

A lot's changed in the 53 years since the first time this ceremony was held. But I am confident that one thing that has never faltered is the character of the people who deliver American diplomacy. The men and women of this department and the agencies represented have always been called upon to do great things. Great things that still resonate throughout these walls and throughout the history of our great country. This team responded to the Iranian revolution in 1979; and organized an important summit in Reykjavik in 1986; we built a coalition of partners during the first Gulf War; and I've already talked about the reunification of Germany, assisting a newly free Central and Eastern Europe in the wake of it. There's more history to be made. I'm confident of that. And it will be because of the hardworking men and women that I have been chosen to lead.

I want to thank everyone here today for helping write that history. This is a remarkable institution. I've seen a handful of our officers in this first week. I can tell you that you have prepared them well. Over the course of the weeks and months, I'd welcome thoughts from you, ideas, your expertise, and I know that together we can achieve great things for our nation.

Today is also special because we get a chance to remember and honor the sacrifice of Americans living and working abroad on behalf of the United States.

Following my remarks, it will be a privilege to take part in a memorial ceremony to honor those who lost their lives in service to our country. In particular, we will honor the service of one man and one woman who made the ultimate sacrifice while honorably serving America abroad. Our nation owes them and their families an enormous debt of gratitude. Let's remember them and the great sacrifice our team makes every day to advance America's interests and protect our nation.

It has been a great pleasure to host the reunion my first week on the job. I cannot imagine a better start to my time in service. Thank you for your service, and please do not be strangers. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

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Press Releases: Poland National Day

Press Statement
Mike Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
May 3, 2018

On behalf of President Trump and the people of the United States, I congratulate the people and government of Poland as you celebrate the 227th anniversary of the Constitution of the Third of May.

The Constitution of the Third of May was a landmark event in Poland's history, making it among the first countries in the world to adopt a written constitution. This year is also the centennial of Poland's recovery of its independence on November 11, 1918, as well as President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, which included a call for the restoration of "an independent Poland." We recall our common heritage in the events of 1918 and affirm our strong alliance today.

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Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo To Deliver Remarks at the Foreign Affairs Day Celebration and Attend the AFSA

Memorial Plaque Ceremony on May 4

Notice to the Press
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
May 3, 2018

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will deliver the keynote address at the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Day for Active and Retired Employees of the Department of State and other Foreign Affairs Agencies on Friday, May 4 at 3:45 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the Department of State.

Secretary Pompeo also will deliver remarks at the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Memorial Plaque Ceremony at 4:15 p.m. in the C Street Lobby. The Secretary will be joined by Deputy Secretary John J. Sullivan, Under Secretary Thomas A. Shannon, Deputy Under Secretary William E. Todd, and AFSA President Ambassador Barbara Stephenson. The AFSA Memorial Plaque Ceremony honors those who have lost their lives while serving overseas due to circumstances distinctive to the Foreign Service, including acts of violence or terrorism. AFSA President Barbara Stephenson will preside over the ceremony and deliver welcoming remarks. Secretary Pompeo and Under Secretary Shannon will also give remarks paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country around the world. They will also pay their respects to the family and friends of the heroic employees whose names will be added to the plaque:

- **Michael Andrew Cameron "Andy" Jordan, a Foreign Service specialist, died on December 18, 2016 in Juba, South Sudan.**
- **Selena Nelson-Salcedo, a Foreign Service officer, died on June 4, 2017 in Bratislava, Slovakia.**

Both events are open to the press. **Please note:** Due to timing and required preset times, press will not be able to cover both events.

For the keynote address at the Foreign Affairs Day Celebration, preset time for video cameras is 2:30 p.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance. Final access for writers and still photographers is 3:30 p.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance.

For the AFSA Memorial Plaque Ceremony, preset time for video cameras is 3:30 p.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance. Final access for writers and still photographers is 3:45 p.m. from the 23rd Street Entrance.

Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the

following: (1) A U.S. Government-issued identification card (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), (2) a media-issued photo identification card, or (3) a letter from their employer on letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification card (driver's license, passport).

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