

**NOMINATIONS OF ROBERT R. BOWIE
AND U. ALEXIS JOHNSON**

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE
EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION
ON
THE NOMINATIONS OF
ROBERT R. BOWIE, TO BE COUNSELOR OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT
AND
U. ALEXIS JOHNSON, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN

AUGUST 16 AND 23, 1966



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**NOMINATION OF U. ALEXIS JOHNSON
TO BE AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1966

**UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, D.C.**

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 4221, New Senate Office Building, Senator J. W. Fulbright (chairman) residing.

Present: Senators Fulbright, Gore, Lausche, Symington, and Aiken. The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

We have this morning The Honorable U. Alexis Johnson, career ambassador, nominated for ambassador to Japan.

(The biographic sketch of Mr. Johnson follows:)

U. ALEXIS JOHNSON, FSO-CAREER AMBASSADOR

Present Position: Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

Office Address: Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Born: October 17, 1908 at Falun, Kansas.

Legal Residence: California.

Marital Status: Married March 21, 1932.

Family: Wife: Patricia Ann Tillman; children: Judith (Mrs. Mason S. Zerbe), Stephen Tillman, William Theodore, Jennifer (Mrs. Martin Moj dara).

Home Address: 5407 Ridgefield Road, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Education: Occidental College, AB, 1931; LL.D., 1957 Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, post graduate studies, 1931-1932.

Language Ability: Proficient in French; useful knowledge of Japanese; basic Thai and Czech.

Experience:

Non-Government:

1932-35: Office Manager.

Government:

1935-37: Tokyo, Japanese Language Student (FSO Unclassified).

1937-39: Keijo, Vice Consul (temporary assignment to Tientsin, 1939).

1940-42: Mukden, General Officer.

1942-44: Rio de Janeiro, Economic Section (Administration and Commercial Reporting) (FSO-8, 1940; FSO-7, 1942).

1944-45: Department.

1945-46: Manila, Consul (FSO-6, 1945; FSO-5, 1946; FSO-4, November 13, 1946).

1946-49: Yokohama, Staff of Acting U.S. Political Adviser to Supreme Commander for Allied Powers; Consul General, 1947.

1947: Promoted to FSO-3.

1949: Promoted to FSO-2.

1949-53: FE, Deputy Director (1949-51), Director, (1951), Office of Northeast Asian Affairs; Deputy Assistant Secretary (1951-53).

1951: Promoted to FSO-1.

1953-55: Ambassador to Czechoslovakia (detailed to Geneva, 1954).

1954-58: Geneva, Coordinator of Conferences on Indo-China; U.S. Representative, Geneva Ambassadorial Negotiations with Communist China for release of U.S. and Chinese citizens (1955-58).

1958-61: Ambassador to Thailand.

*U. Alexis Johnson 1966 hearings
Gore's comments*

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VIETNAM WAR

Senator GORE. I noticed on the front page of the Washington Post, today, under a headline. "Viet Policy Also J.F.K.'s, Rusk says," an article which starts out:

Secretary of State Dean Rusk yesterday drew on his official relationship with John F. Kennedy to imply that the late President would be doing what President Johnson is doing today in Vietnam.

Here is the exact quote from Secretary Rusk as reported in the paper:

If, as President, he ever had any doubt about that, he never indicated it to his Secretary of State. Never to my knowledge did he falter in his resolve to do whatever might be necessary to prevent the Communists from seizing South Vietnam and southeast Asia.

I do not wish to invoke the hypothesis of the dead. I do not know what the late John F. Kennedy would have done under different circumstances.

I recall several conversations with him about this. He was quite emphatic, not only in his private statements, but in his public statements, in opposition to the commitment of combat forces in southeast Asia. I am not relying upon personal conversations in that regard. I am relying upon public ones, although I am also well aware of private remarks he made.

Moreover, he said one other thing that may have some bearing in the future. Unless we are able to reach an accord on nuclear proliferation he expressed the view to me that when Red China had an arsenal of nuclear weapons, then the Indochina peninsula would be within her sphere of influence. But I do not cite that as any evidence of what he would have done under any different circumstances. I question the advisability of the Secretary of State saying what he said.

U.S. TROOPS SENT TO THAILAND IN 1961

Mr. JOHNSON. Senator, I just might point out I am not able to speak on this. Obviously, the Secretary is more competent to speak on this. But I might point out that President Kennedy did, in the fall of 1961, send a substantial body of U.S. troops to northeast Thailand at the time the Pathet Lao and Vietminh were moving down toward the Mekong, north of Luang Prabang.

Now, those troops were never put into action. You will recall that the Communists withdrew at that time from those advanced positions that they had taken. But he did put those troops in northeast Thailand at that time.

Senator LAUSCHE. Will the chairman yield to me on this subject?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Senator LAUSCHE. Are you speaking of the shipment of 5,000 Marines into Thailand at the time that conditions became critical in Laos?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is it; yes, sir, Senator.

Senator LAUSCHE. Is it not also a fact that when Kennedy became President there were 600 U.S. troops in South Vietnam and, at the time of his death, there were 16,000 or 17,000, indicating that he felt we had a vital interest in that country?