

**OPENING STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR JACK REED
CHAIRMAN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ROOM SD-G50
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

To receive testimony on World Wide Threats
(As prepared for delivery)

REED: Good morning. The committee meets today to receive testimony on the worldwide threats facing the United States and our international partners.

I would like to welcome Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines and Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lieutenant General Scott D. Berrier. Thank you both for joining us, and please convey the committee's gratitude to the men and women of the intelligence community for their critical work.

We must start by addressing the illegal war Vladimir Putin is waging in Ukraine. Over the past two and a half months, Russia's unprovoked aggression has inflicted horrific suffering upon innocent civilians in Ukraine, threatened European security, and caused serious consequences for the global economy. In the face of this senseless violence, the Ukrainian military has performed tremendously, supported by the United States and the international community. A formidable array of our global allies and partners have joined in solidarity to impose severe sanctions on Russia and provide support to Ukraine. We cannot overstate the scale and importance of this unity.

I want to commend the Biden Administration and the leaders of the Intelligence Community for the unprecedented and skillful release of intelligence over the last several months that exposed Russia's aggressive intentions and deceitful activities ahead of its invasion of Ukraine. Intelligence officials are understandably cautious about revealing hard-won insights on adversaries, but this strategy has proven highly effective in strengthening the international community's response and creating dilemmas for Vladimir Putin. This is a great example of competing effectively in the information domain, and I hope we will continue to make use of this kind of creative tradecraft.

With that in mind, Russia's strategy in Ukraine seems to be evolving. Director Haines, General Berrier, I would ask for your assessment of the Ukraine conflict in

the larger context of the evolving international order, as well as the implications for the U.S. approach to security in the European theater going forward.

We must also stay focused on our long-term strategic competition with China. In addition to its economic and socio-political growth, China has studied the United States' way of war and focused on offsetting our advantages. Beijing has made concerning progress in this regard and holds its own expansive geostrategic ambitions. As we speak, China is watching how the nations of the world respond to Russia. In considering a potential invasion of Taiwan, President Xi is scrutinizing Putin's playbook and the international response.

However, there is broad consensus that our comparative advantage over China is our network of partners and allies in the region and globally. Strengthening that network should be at the center of any strategy for the Indo-Pacific region, and the maturation of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or "Quad," involving the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, presents a strategic opportunity to establish a durable framework.

I would ask our witnesses to share what military and non-military factors are most likely to impact Chinese decision-making with respect to potential action against Taiwan.

Turning to Iran, in the four years since then-President Trump pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, Iran has made key nuclear advances. It has decreased "breakout time" to several weeks, from a year under the agreement. It has increased uranium enrichment to 60%, instead of just under 4% allowed under the agreement. Iran has hardened its infrastructure and replaced damaged equipment with more advanced models. And while negotiations to return Iran to the JCPOA are in the final stages, the final outcome has not yet been determined. Beyond its nuclear advances, Iran and Iranian proxies continue to mount drone and rocket attacks in the region, including against bases in Iraq and Syria with a U.S military presence, Saudi Arabia, and now the United Arab Emirates. Director Haines, given these current dynamics I would like your thoughts on how to best de-escalate tensions with Iran while preserving space to return the JCPOA.

Finally, this year's threat assessment again highlights the challenges posed by environmental degradation from climate change. I understand it is the DNI's view that climate change will increasingly exacerbate risks to U.S. national security interests, as issues like rising temperatures, poor water governance, pollution, changing precipitation patterns, and other climate effects are likely to lead to an

array of human challenges, such as food and water insecurity and threats to human health.

We live in a complex and dangerous global security environment. From Russia's aggression in Europe to China's influence in the Indo-Pacific to countless other malign actors around the world, prevailing in this environment will require resolute, thoughtful strategies.

I look forward to our witnesses' insights into these issues, and I thank them again for their participation.

Let me now turn to Ranking Member Inhofe.