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RICHARD RUSSELL TO BE APPOINTED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE 2007 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON—Today the President announced his intention to appoint Richard M. Russell U.S. Ambassador to the 2007 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

“Richard Russell’s experience with spectrum issues during this Administration makes him an ideal choice to lead the U.S. delegation to the 2007 World Radiocommunications Conference. The allocation and management of radio spectrum is critical to our ability to communicate, defend our nation, and conduct science. The WRC is the global forum for harmonizing the uses of this vital resource,” said Dr. John Marburger, Director of Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

The WRC is convened every three to four years under the auspices of the United Nation’s International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to review and revise the international treaty governing the use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. The 2007 WRC will be held October 22 to November 16.

Mr. Russell is Associate Director of OSTP in the Executive Office of the President. In that capacity, he is OSTP’s Deputy Director for Technology. In addition to his role at OSTP, Mr. Russell is Senior Director for Technology and Telecommunications for the National Economic Council. Prior to being confirmed by the Senate for his current position, Mr. Russell served as OSTP’s Chief of Staff. Mr. Russell also worked on the Presidential Transition Teams for the Department of Commerce, National Science Foundation and OSTP. In 1988, he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Yale University.

Previous U.S. Ambassadors to WRC have included Janice Obuchowski, President of Freedom Technologies and former Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the Department of Commerce, Dr. Gail Schoettler, former Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, and former Congressman John Bryant (D-TX).

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