

NEWS

from
**Paul
Tsongas**

U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

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MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS APPOINTED TO FOREIGN RELATIONS AND BUDGET
COMMITTEES; SEATS VACATED BY MUSKIE.

Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas was appointed today to positions on the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and the Budget. Both positions were recently vacated by Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine who was appointed by President Carter to succeed Cyrus Vance as Secretary of State.

The Senate Democratic Steering Committee announced the Tsongas appointments late this afternoon. Tsongas will step down from his current position on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee but will maintain his seat on the Senate Energy Committee, in addition to his new assignments.

In an acceptance statement released this afternoon, Tsongas said, "My work on the Banking Committee has been both productive and rewarding. However, my decision to accept the seat on the Foreign Relations Committee was decided, in the final analysis, by the unprecedented challenges we face abroad. The hostage crisis in Iran and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan are long-term problems with grave implications for peace and security in the Middle East and the World."

He continued, "Instability in the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa threatens our oil supply and invites super-power intervention. The Third World is also entering a period of turbulence and rapid change. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will play a pivotal role in shaping our foreign policy response to these crucial issues and I am honored to bring my experience to bear on that process."

In response to the Budget appointment, Tsongas stated, "I am particularly pleased to be a member of the Senate Budget Committee. While the committee has lost an able and skilled leader in Senator Muskie, I plan to add a strong voice to the budgetary issues which lay ahead. It is clear from the Senate deliberations on the Budget this week, that the process is of critical importance to the economic and social stability of the nation. I regard the appointment as one of the most significant of my career."

The 39 year old junior Senator from Massachusetts was elected to the Senate in November of 1978 after serving two terms as U.S. Representative from Massachusetts' 5th district. Prior to his Congressional career, Tsongas was a Middlesex County Commissioner and a Lowell, Massachusetts City Councillor, the city of his birth.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale Law School, Tsongas has had considerable international experience, including service in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia in the 1960's and extensive travel in Africa while in Congress. As a member of the Banking Committee, Tsongas sat on the subcommittee on International Finance. He is also the coordinator of the Ad-Hoc Congressional Monitoring Group on Southern Africa, a 46 member House-Senate coalition formed in 1977 after the death of South African civil rights leader Steve Biko.