Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary, it is nice to see you again. I most assuredly

agree with you about the starvation diet that we have had for our

State Department and our international presence generally. I am

very concerned about security issues affecting our personnel abroad

as well.

We had a little exercise at Davos last January, looking at the

biggest blunders of the 20th century, and one of the nominations

was the way that the West, with the U.S. leading, handled aid to

the former Soviet Union to Russia in particular. Congressman

Leach has given, of course, some of the statistics—remarkably dire

statistics—about what has happened to the life of the Russian people,

their health, and their future.

I am very critical of the way we handled the IMF loans to Russia.

I call them the Yeltsin loans. I hope that we are not going to

reinforce all of the wrong tenets, but I do understand that our impact

has been exaggerated, and the Russians have also to take a

share of the blame. I am concerned that, because of the disillusionment,

President Putin will be able to come down hard on some of

the freedoms they now enjoy with an autocratic kind of lead appealing

to nationalism and that we are, therefore, in for a tough

period in Russian-American relations. I hope that I am wrong

about that, but I don’t like the signs that I see.

I wanted to ask you, Madam Secretary, if you would like to offer

any opinions about the so-called Armenian genocide resolution

which is said to have a great effect on Turkish-American relations

and once again affects California politics here. I know that the

President of Armenia has been to Moscow just in the last week,

and I wonder if you would like to talk about Russia-Armenian military

cooperation or anything related to this general subject in the

Caucasus region.

Thank you.