Madam Secretary, welcome again. It is good to see

you. I join all of my colleagues in the accolades that you have received

today for your work in a very difficult time in the history

of the world. You are performing remarkably.

I appreciate your comments on U.S.-Russian relations, and I

have a question.

My first issue is the global gag rule. I know that you have come

out strongly saying that you didn’t like what happened last year

in terms of negotiations between the House and White House and

that you would hope that not happen again this year. Could you

maybe reiterate that again today and why you think that it is bad

to have that policy within our budget?

Secondly, the group known as Hadassah, the women’s INS organization

of America, has applied for a special consultative status as

an NGO with the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

ECOSOC; and it is my understanding that some countries, Syria

and Lebanon in particular, have objected to their inclusion within

ECOSOC as an NGO. My office has been working and discussing

this issue with our very able Ambassador King at ECOSOC. I am

concerned that after Israel has been given status in a subgroup

within WEOG that there is still some outstanding antisemitism

and antizionism in the U.N., and I would ask that you personally

direct our mission in New York, to use your diplomatic abilities to

impress our allies on ECOSOC NGO Committee to allow Hadassah

to have the same responsibilities and status of all humanitarianbased

NGOs.