Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me echo all of the kudos that you have received today. I, for

one, am convinced that Rick Inderfurth is not working for the

Taliban. I want to put that out as a matter of record.

Before I pose a question, because I want to make an observation,

the Chairman in his opening remarks made references to the INL,

with implications that I interpreted as somewhat negative. I want

you to know that I, for one, have great respect for the INL. Randy

Beers does a tremendous job. You have people on the ground in

very, very difficult situations, particularly in Colombia, that are

doing heroic and extraordinary work. They have the admiration

and respect of not only American agencies such as the DEA but

clearly the senior officials from the Colombian National Police. So

I think it is important to get that out there.

I am also very happy that our Secretary of State

doesn’t believe everything that is stated in a Reuters news story

about some vague analyst talking about something that I didn’t

even quite understand. This is very reassuring.

Let me get to my questions.

The role of the Russian and Putin government in terms of North

Korea and what hopefully appears to be a change in attitude as far

as North Korea is concerned regarding its relationships with the

rest of the world and also in terms of the recent elections in Belgrade,

has there been any early indication of the Putin government’s

reaction to the preliminary results?

I would hope that you would communicate that

the expression I think of this particular Committee is that the Russians

do have a potentially very critical role in what evolves in

terms of the aftermath of those elections, and we will be watching

that closely.

Thank you.