Thank you, Madam Secretary, for the good run

for 7 and a half and almost 8 years.

I sat here and I listened to my colleagues, and it began to sink

in on me that I have had the good fortune of traveling with the

Chairman of this Committee around the world on two occasions

with stops in many places that you have visited. I would like to use

my time to say to you, whether I have been in Africa or Asia or

Australia or in the United States or the Middle East or India or

Europe, you are held in the highest esteem by the people who are

in diplomatic circles with whom I have interfaced, and interlocutors

in China as well as elsewhere in the world. I would just like to add

my thanks as my colleagues have for the tremendous service that

you have given, as well as this Administration, to the world.

I would like to lift from your prepared remarks two segments

that I think are important because, as my colleague, Chris Smith,

with whom I serve in the Organization for Security and Cooperation

in Europe pointed out, corruption is an issue of vital concern

for those of us that are policymakers. You did not have the time

to say what I do have 1 minute to say and that is that, in 1995,

President Clinton in Moscow called for a market based on law, not

lawlessness. Deputy Secretary Talbott in 1996 told President

Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin that they must bring

under control the epidemic of crime and corruption.

In 1997, Vice President Gore took the lead in pressing Russia to

enact money laundering and anti-crime legislation. That same

year, Secretary Summers of the Treasury declared that we must

recognize that a successful campaign against crime and corruption

must begin at the top.

I know for a fact that in speeches here and elsewhere in the

world you have constantly decried corruption, so I don’t know what

my colleagues are talking about. I don’t know what special leverage

they have that will cause them to be able to wave a magic wand

and cause corruption in an area where 70 years of oppression has

existed. I find that difficult.

Let me talk briefly and end by saying that there are other things

that need to be looked at that and should be lifted from your prepared

remarks. Our exchange programs have enabled nearly

45,000 Russian leaders of tomorrow to witness firsthand the workings

of America’s free market democracy, not to mention the interparliamentary

exchanges that evidently some of my colleagues

have forgotten that we participate in.

More than a quarter million Russian entrepreneurs have benefited

from our training and consulting on small loans. We have developed

independent Russia media which now include more than

300 regional television stations. We have aided independent trade

unions in seeking to establish their legal rights, and we have assisted

thousands of nongovernmental organizations striving to

build Russia’s democracy from the grass roots.

I don’t think that the whole picture is bleak. I know that there

is more to be done, but what you said is that you are not looking

at this nor have you looked at Russia through rose-colored glasses.

I take seriously—and I, for one, as an internationalist and somebody

that has traveled considerably, believe that you and this Administration

have done a commendable job.

I don’t have any questions.