Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Secretary, I want to see join with my colleagues in commending

you for your leadership. Also, as a woman, seeing how you

have dealt with the many challenges throughout the world that you

have had to deal with, it has been remarkable.

The former Soviet Union, now Russia, was very involved in the

developing world, especially in Africa, providing technical assistance

and military assistance to many of the liberation movements;

and, oftentimes, the United States was on the other side. I believe

oftentimes the ANC had been called a Soviet front. The ANC had

actually been banned in this country for some time.

Since the end of the Cold War, however, I am curious as to what

Russia’s relationships are now and what their policies are say, for

instance, in Africa and in the Caribbean and also with regard to

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Cuba. What has been Russian involvement and policies toward

Cuba since the end of the Cold War?

Let me thank you for your leadership on Africa because there

was a major void in Africa. The United States had not put Africa

where it should have been by saying that Africa didn’t matter in

terms of our policy; and, of course, if history records it correctly,

that allowed Russia the opportunity to get in there. What has happened

since the end of the Cold War?