Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, welcome Ambassador

Sherman. She was an able advocate for the State Department

when she headed up their Legislative Affairs Bureau. If she

could handle Congress, we know that she will be able to handle

North Korea as well.

I think there is clearly a case that while there is great consternation

here and elsewhere in how to deal with North Korea, and

there is a great sense that it poses a threat to the United States

and many in the international community, few of us have any real

solutions on how to deal successfully with the North Koreans.

The North Koreans have aggressively pursued programs that

have harmed millions of their people, leading to starvation and

leaving their population decimated. Unfortunately, their nuclear

missile programs, which began in the 1980’s, are still a potential

threat, even if some of that has been stalled.

It seems clear that the North Koreans, with their missile flight

tests and other policies, tend to use these to leverage their position

in the international community.

We are in a difficult position. Millions of North Koreans are

starving, with a government that seems to care little for its own

population. Maybe they sense that our own humanity prevents us

from simply walking away and trying to be more confrontational.

However, I think that the one thing the North Koreans have to

know is that there is a limit to the patience of the U.S. Congress

and the American people.

Their failure to move forward in this new round of negotiations

is a very bad signal, and I think that both Democrats and Republicans

alike in Congress are losing patience with the North Korean

government, which believes it can continue to live in this wonderland

where its irresponsible policies threaten the world and threaten

their own population.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Is that part of your official statement?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Who are North Korea’s closest allies? Are the Chinese helping

them, either economically or with military technology?

Now, what are the relationships in the Middle

East? Are they primarily, sales, where the North Koreans sell rockets

of some kind, and the Middle Eastern countries buy them? Or

are the relationships more significant than that?

I would like to have that. Then what about Russia?

Do the Russians have any kind of relationship with the North

Koreans?

Are there any other countries, other than

China, that have a relationship that is significant with North

Korea?

What countries have the most significant diplomatic

relationship at this point with North Korea, and have an ambassador

there, have a significant presence, either economically or

politically, in the country? China, obviously, would be——

Does Vietnam have a significant——

[continuing]. Presence there?

What a surprise.

What are the most significant economic relationships with the

private sector that exist? Are there any large private corporations—

whether it is hotels, industrial, or service sectors, in North

Korea?

I will finish with this. Those private sector relationships

are, indeed, with the government of North Korea, because

if you are doing a tourism project in North Korea, there is no private

land ownership or——

[continuing]. Sector that you would sign up with.

So it is an agreement between a corporation in South Korea and

the government of North Korea.

Thank you.