Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have

submitted a written statement for the record. Also, in the interest

of time, I will be here to take questions on the military aspects of

our policy on Iraq.

The short answer is yes, Mr. Chairman, I

think we are. The monitoring of the no-fly zones is actually accomplishing

two important things. One is to ensure that Iraqi aircraft

cannot, in fact, fly and be used to repress the civilian populations

in the areas where the no-fly zones are.

There is also an added benefit. Because the Iraqis are continuing

to challenge our presence there, we are, in our response, degrading

the Iraqi air defense capabilities over time. It also allows us to

monitor, importantly, the presence of the Iraqi military forces to

determine if they are changing their posture and becoming an even

greater threat to Iraq’s neighbors.

To my knowledge, we are not dropping bombs

with cement. We are responding to Iraqi provocations and threats

to our coalition partners. We are responding to that. We are, in

fact, degrading Iraq’s air defense capabilities.

The opposition, I believe, needs a lot of training

in the areas that we have identified to make them into an effective,

external political opposition and political voice. We are looking

at providing them training to make them more effective in those

areas. In our discussions with them, it is clear that they also feel

that the kind of training that we are offering them will provide

them some benefits. We are focusing on that.

I would not want to put an exact date on that.