Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you for pointing out that this is a bipartisan concern

and initiative.

I had the great privilege of accompanying Congressman Payne

and Congresswoman Lee to visit Darfur in January. As I was

there, I was so impressed and appreciative of what the United

States Agency for International Development is accomplishing for

the people. There was shelter, there was food, there were educational

items for the children. It just made you so proud to see a

very visible and very significant and meaningful presence of

USAID.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to commend you on your good judgment

in securing and providing for the employment of Greg

Simpkins.

Greg, who is the staff person sitting next to you, was invaluable

in my visit to Africa. He has great insight of the issues, he has

great compassion for the people, and he is on a first-name basis

with President Mbeki of South Africa, President Kufuor of Ghana

and President Sirleaf of Liberia. So we should be very fortunate to

have staff persons who are so capable.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.