Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Secretary, let me just take a moment to express my highest

admiration for the quality of work you have done for this Nation as our Secretary of State.

Your childhood shaped your values; and they taught you to be

engaged and involved, to be an activist, to stand up to dictators,

whether they are called Hitler or Stalin or Slobodan Milosevic. You

have done that with great style, and it will take a long time fully

to appreciate the extraordinary quality of your service as Secretary of State.

You asked rhetorically in your opening comments whether any of

us have seen the old Soviet Union. Well, let me tell you, I first visited

the old Soviet Union in 1956, and most recently I visited Russia

earlier this month, and in between I have been there on countless

occasions. I think it is important for us to understand that

enormous strides have been made in transforming this vast country

into an image which is infinitely more to our liking than we had

any reason to expect just a few years ago.

Since some of my Republican colleagues are highly critical of the

performance of this Administration during the last 8 years, let me

just remind them, in all friendship, that the Soviet Union collapsed

in 1989. This Administration came to power in 1993. The greatest

moment for our potential impact on Russia was during the former

Bush Administration between 1989 and 1993.

One of my colleagues quoted the statistic that there was a more

favorable attitude toward the United States in 1993 than there is

today, which is true. There was a lot more favorable attitude toward

the United States in 1989 and 1990 and 1991 and 1992. The

Russians had great expectations, many of them unrealistic, with

respect to U.S.-Russian relations; and they were disappointed during

the first early years of the collapse of the Soviet regime.

Madam Secretary, I want to deal with a couple of issues that I

think are of enormous importance for the future. Clearly, the most

valuable single thing we have done in the period since the collapse

of the regime, apart from the nuclear weapons issue, has been to

bring to this country large numbers of young Russians. We have

now brought thousands and thousands of young men and women

to this country. I have met with scores of them, and they clearly

represent the most significant value for the long run in terms of

changing Russian attitudes.

I believe that your department and other agencies need desperately

to have their resources increased to deal with this issue

and other foreign policy issues. Last Friday, Madam Secretary, one

stock, Intel, lost more value in one day—four times more value in

one day than your entire annual budget. Intel’s $90 billion loss in

value represents 4 years of the State Department’s budget, and I

think this is a hell of a condemnation of the value we place on the

importance of conducting foreign policy across the globe.

I also would like to ask you to comment on attacks, particularly

of Vice President Gore, in the Russian field. I am convinced,

Madam Secretary, that we have never had a president or vice

president more knowledgeable and more hands-on with respect to

dealing with Russia than we have in Vice President Gore.

All of the criticism that has been leveled at you and him and at

the President with respect to money laundering and noninvolvement

with Russian crime are demonstrably untrue. In 1997, your

Administration made a strong representation to the Russians to

clean up their act with respect to money laundering, to clean up

their act with respect to tolerating international crime.

I also would like to suggest that your position of remaining engaged

with the Putin regime is the only rational position. Sometimes

those who would like to go back to isolationist approaches

are the ones who simultaneously expect an all-powerful U.S. Influence

in Russia, and the two are incompatible.

I would be grateful for your reactions.