Thank you, very much. Madam Secretary, welcome to the Committee. I would like to ask

two basic questions, the first dealing with Chechnya and the second

on the issue of corruption.

First, I have held numerous hearings in the Commission on Security

Cooperation on Chechnya and clearly have been very critical

of many of those involved. I think we have done far too little.

As a matter of fact, former National Security Adviser Brzezinski

under President Carter testified on the Senate side, ‘‘It is tragically

the case that the Administration’s indifference to what has been

happening in Chechnya has probably contributed to the scale of

genocide inflicted on Chechens. The Kremlin paused several times

in the course of its military campaign in order to gauge the reactions

of the West, yet all they heard from the President were the

words, ‘I have no sympathy for the Chechen rebels.’ ’’ That was in April of this year.

We had many people, Elena Bonner and many other people, the

wife of Andrei Sakharov, Nobel Peace prizewinner, take the Administration

to task for not stepping up to the plate and saying, how

awful. Yes, we know war is awful but there would be a penalty if

the terrible scorched earth policy in Chechnya began. We provided

about $20 billion in U.S. aid to Russia. We have not lifted a finger

to say to the IMF and the World Bank that there is a conditionality

to those funds if and only if this terrible war stops. Yes, there have

been some rhetorical statements made on it, but we all know in the

early days of Chechnya, which claimed 80,000 casualties, the State

Department said it was analogous to our own Civil War back in the

1860’s. That, according to many of our witnesses, including Elena

Bonner, gave the green light to the Russians at a crucial time

when they could have said, will there be a penalty or not? How far

do we probe? And now they have Chechnya II.

My second point has to do with the corruption issue. I led the

delegation to the OSC parliamentary assembly in Bucharest, and

our whole focus was on corruption. Yet in this report put out by

the Speaker’s Advisory Committee there is a very, very strong criticism

of the 1995 CIA report that was dismissed as bull, fill in the

rest, by Vice President Gore.

I chair the State Department’s Authorizing Committee, and yet

we now have testimony from a number of people, including Donald

Jensen on Frontline, who says that cable was squashed with regards

to corruption because it didn’t fit into the paradigm and the

parameters of giving good news about what was going on.

That raises serious questions for all of us. This report, you can

dismiss it, and I don’t want to sugarcoat or engage in any kind of

hyperbole. We need honesty and transparency. This seems to suggest

that being in league, however unwittingly, with the Mafia and

bad characters in Russia somehow has to be put aside and swept under the table.

I would appreciate a response to Chechnya and to the corruption

issue and particularly as the corruption issue is spelled out in this

Speaker’s advisory report.