Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman; and I

wish to reiterate our admiration, our appreciation, our esteem for

Chairman Hyde for his many years of service to this Nation, this

Chamber and, most importantly, this Committee. He will sorely be

missed.

Years of Six-Party Talks failed to prevent North Korea from testing

its long-range missiles this summer, nor from testing a nuclear

device in October of this year. Despite the concessions offered,

which included the easing of United States sanctions by President

Clinton, the provisions of assistance for the construction of nuclear

research reactors and later security guarantees, North Korea

marched onward in its pursuit of activities which posed a threat to

global security and peace.

Should it surprise us? After all, in September 2005 they issued

a joint statement. For example, the international community never

sought reciprocal assurances regarding Pyongyang’s hostile intent

toward South Korea. After all, it took North Korea conducting a

nuclear test for the international community to agree to prevent

certain nuclear-related technology and equipment from reaching

this rogue regime.

Is our policy now going to be to reward North Korea’s behavior

by offering to enter into bilateral talks, as some have suggested, because

Kim Jong-il is now a man of reason, because he now can be

trusted?

Well, after all, did North Korea not sign an agreement in 1994

with the Clinton Administration pledging to freeze and eventually

dismantle its nuclear weapons program and then in 2002 admitted

to operating a secret nuclear weapons program in violation of such

an agreement? Did North Korea not acknowledge this nuclear

weapons program only when confronted by the United States with

the evidence of such a covert effort?

Is our policy going to focus, instead of increasing the pressure on

North Korea, on sending a clear message to others like Iran that

there will be a price to pay for violations of its nonproliferation obligations

and its hostile behavior? Or is our policy simply to return

to Six-Party Talks in December and see North Korea, as has been

reported in the news sources this morning, demonstrating in concrete

terms a commitment to end its nuclear program?

I would appreciate it if the witness today, our good friend, Ambassador

Burns, clarified what that means. What concrete, specific,

verifiable steps are we requiring of North Korea? Are we simply

seeing a revival of dialogue for dialogue sake?

Also, news articles this morning say that U.S. measures are on

the table, although UN sanctions would remain in place. Is the

United States considering further inducements for North Korea?

And, lastly, Mr. Chairman, what benchmarks and conditions, if

any, are we and our allies placing on North Korea prior to the

issuance of further concessions? History has shown us the consequences

of appeasement. Let us heed these lessons now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.