Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, it is often said that politics stops at the water’s

edge; and I would just like to say that Chairman Henry Hyde,

through his work with Ranking Member Lantos, has personified

that adage. He is a leader for all of us. Other Committees in the

House and indeed the Congress as a whole would do well to take

their cue from the leadership that Chairman Henry Hyde provided

this Committee.

The issues being dealt with in our Committee, the issues of war

and peace, are just too important to succumb to partisan rancor;

and though he has been tried at times, Henry Hyde understood

that. He understood that we are Americans more than we are Republicans

and Democrats, and he makes many of us a little

prouder to serve in Congress, and I just wanted to share that sentiment

today, Chairman.

I also wanted to share with Secretary Burns that

during the discussions that returned North Korea to the Six-Party

Talks, I think we found out what was really important to Kim

Jong-il, and what was important to him turned out to be money.

It turned out that paying his generals was important to him, any

asset freeze that was placed made it impossible for him to do that,

and apparently the North Korean representative’s only request to

restart this Six-Party Talks included the discussion of that financial

situation which began last year when Banco Delta Asia was

blacklisted for assisting North Korea in money laundering.

What I am worried about as we go forward is that we might get

wobbly on this issue. Because I think we have discovered one of the

keys in terms of getting the attention of this regime. We have to

continue to demonstrate that unless Kim Jong-il disarms he will

continue to be isolated and starved for cash and trade. That is a

very important principle. North Korea is susceptible to financial

and economic pressure. So let’s keep that up.

I would like to hear during your presentation, Secretary Burns,

on how we will be handling discussions in this special working

group on financial issues.

Thank you again, Chairman Hyde.