Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to welcome you, Deputy Secretary, and thank you,

Mr. Chairman, for this hearing. I want to also follow up with Mr. Payne’s comment and questions

with regard to United States policy toward the Sudan. I believe it

was in April the United States Government hosted, or at least invited

and had discussions with the top intelligence chief of the

Sudan, and now we are in a hearing, and you may clarify this

later, that a high-level delegation may be visiting the United States.

Also, I am hearing that there are discussions with regard to the

lifting of sanctions against this regime. So I wanted to—and during

the questioning, I want to clarify from you what is taking place.

I had the privilege to visit the Sudan with Chairman Royce, and

what I saw was unbelievable. Genocide is occurring. There should

be no discussion with regard to the lifting of sanctions. And yes,

we have to deal with the war on terror, but we have got to figure

out a way to address the war on terror with Sudan if, in fact, that

is the case, but using that as leverage to get that country to end

the genocide against the thousands and thousands of people.

And so I look forward to a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Secretary.

Let me say a couple of things. First of all, the United States is

engaged in a major operation of war in Iraq, $350 billion, under the

premise that there were weapons of mass destruction. We don’t

know when the end of the war will be.

I want to ask you, with regard to Sudan, given the magnitude

of the military involvement in Iraq, what have discussions been

within the State Department with regard to a peacemaking force

in the Sudan? And I am not talking about invading or bombing the

country, but I am talking about putting together an international

force. I don’t believe there was much criticism, and I have to ask

you if the African Union is troubled by that.

If, in fact, we wanted to do that in order to stop this horrendous

carnage, I don’t believe that there was much criticism with regard

to the British forces in Sierra Leone or the French and Belgian

troops in the Congo. So the first thing I want to know, is what the

dialogue has been about that. Again, I am not talking about invading

or bombing a country, but I am talking about peacemaking troops.

Secondly, I want to find out from you if the United States is considering

lifting sanctions. We hear that you may be, but yet you

didn’t mention that, I believe—I don’t believe, in your statement.

Along with Congressman Payne, my State in California, we are

moving toward divestment. There are at least 44 companies with

the California Pension Retirement System doing business or with

investment in the Sudan, 8 billion plus. We are trying to figure out

how much. But the consideration of lifting sanctions, I think, sends

the wrong message if that is what you are trying to do.

And, thirdly, let me ask you, with regard to the Arab world and

Arab leaders, I met with the President of Algeria, high-level Egyptian

officials, the President of Egypt. Quite frankly, I was very disappointed

with their response in terms of their understanding of

what was taking place as it relates to genocide; and I am wondering

how we are weighing in with the Arab world to bring this

in focus in terms of the death and destruction and the raping of

the women and the destroying of the villages and all of the genocidal

acts that are taking place. So those would be my three questions to you.

Well, yes, but military presence to bring—to help secure the peace.

Do you think 10,000 to 12,000 AU troops is sufficient?